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SOCCER ACTION

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JIMMY GREAVES FOR AUSTRALIA?

McKay State coach

Former Scottish international Duncan McKay has been appointed coach of the Victorian State team.

Victoria will meet Derby County and the Bobby Charlton All-Stars in May, and Hajduk Split in July.

McKay's appointment as State coach comes only two weeks after he was sacked as coach of State League club Essendon-Croatia.

He played 13 games for Scotland and more than 200 for Glasgow Celtic before coming to Melbourne to join the now defunct Croatia club in 1965.

Together with Billy Votek, Jimmy Mackay, Horst Rau, Hugh Gunn, Frank Bot, Hammy McMeachen, Bill McIntyre and Brian Adam, he was one of the stalwarts of the great Croatia team that won the 1968 championship, Dockerty Cup and Ampol Cup.

From 1972 to 1974 he was back in Scotland, helping coach Celtic's third team.

He returned to Australia in 1974 to coach Azzurri in Perth.

As State coach, McKay succeeds Ron Smith, who has quit his job as Victorian Director of Coaching and returned to England.



A pictorial tribute to Mike O'Hara whose flamboyance has made him one of the institutions of Victorian soccer.

Jimmy Greaves, the great forward who represented England 57 times, wants to play in Australia.

Greaves, 38, has sent a telegramme to the Phillips Soccer League, whose season kicks off on Saturday, offering his services to any club that wants him.

The former Chelsea and Tottenham Hotspur striker was top scorer in the English First Division six times — 1958-59, 1960-61, 1962-63, 1963-64, 1964-65 and 1968-69.

His highest total for a season was 41 in 1960-61.

Greaves has lately been playing for Dartford in the English Southern League.

He has told the PSL he is available to play in Australia for at least 12 months.

Another famous English player, **Charlie Cooke** of Chelsea, may also come to Australia.

South Melbourne Hellas president **Sam Pappasavas** telephoned Cooke last week, when he heard that the Scottish international had been put on Chelsea's free transfer list.

However, the Los Angeles Aztecs have also contacted him.

Cooke, once a winger and now a midfielder, has represented Scotland 16 times and played about 300 games for Chelsea.

He has also played for Crystal Palace and in Scotland for Aberdeen and Dundee.



Jimmy Greaves

Fairbrother may take legal action

A legal battle looms over the transfer of Barrie Fairbrother from Mooroolbark to Brisbane Lions.

However, Fairbrother will be available for Lions' opening PSL game against Marconi in Brisbane on Sunday.

The drama started last week after the Executive of the Australian Soccer Federation reversed a decision by the Appeals Board which gave Fairbrother a free transfer to Lions.

When Fairbrother heard the news that he had a \$10,000 price tag on him after having been a free player two days before, he said:

"There is no way Mooroolbark will

get one cent for me. I'll stand out of soccer rather than see the club get any money from my transfer."

Lions secured Fairbrother by paying a transfer fee into a trust fund set up by the ASF which will hold all money paid to Mooroolbark for players. The money will be used to pay Mooroolbark's debts.

However, Fairbrother is going to appeal against the ASF Executive decision and, if necessary, take legal action so he can transfer for free.

Continued page 14

O'Hara on show at St. Albans

State goalkeeper Mike O'Hara of Hakoah has signed for Footscray J.U.S.T. to replace Dennis Boland who has yellow fever and will be out for at least two months.

J.U.S.T. paid Hakoah \$3000 and also signed over its forward, **Steve Adamgille**.

O'Hara will play for J.U.S.T. against Green Gully Ajax at Green Gully Reserve, St Albans, in a practice match tonight (Wednesday) at 6.30 pm.

Fitzroy Alexander and Essendon

Croatia had also been negotiating to sign O'Hara.

However, Alexander had been scared away by Hakoah's initial asking price of \$6000.

O'Hara first joined Hakoah in the mid-sixties and had a spell with Slavia before returning to Hakoah.

He represented Victoria against Roma of Italy in the sixties and against Middlesbrough of England last year.

Determined to join a national league club this year, O'Hara told Hakoah he would not play at all if the club did not release him.

Indeed, he had been coaching Fourth Division team Mornington for the past few weeks.

With the Phillips League season starting with a game against Adelaide Juventus in Adelaide on Sunday, J.U.S.T. coach **Cedo Cirkovic** became desperate for a top-class goalkeeper when Boland fell ill.

O'Hara did not play in J.U.S.T.'s practice match against Melbourne last Sunday.

J.U.S.T. won the game 4-1 with two goals by **Mendo Ristovski** and one each



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\$15,000 at stake in Philips Cup

The proposed Australia-wide Cup for the Philips Trophy is certain to go ahead now that Victoria and NSW have said they will participate.

Both States had earlier been hostile towards the competition.

Victoria told the ASF its clubs would take part providing the sponsors put up prize money.

NSW's attitude had earlier been that it would not participate because the PSL clubs had refused to take part in the NSW Ampol Cup.

However, NSW has now decided to recommend to its leading clubs that they take part in the series.

The Cup would be contested by the 14 Philips League clubs, four clubs from Sydney, four from Melbourne, three from Adelaide, three from Brisbane and one each from Western Australia, Tasmania, ACT and Northern NSW.

Prizemoney will be about \$15,000.

MY \$15,000 PRICE RIDICULOUS: BELL

South Melbourne Hellas has made a bid for transfer-listed Sydney Olympic centre back Richie Bell.

However, if Bell leaves Olympic it will be to another Sydney Philips League club.

"I recently started working as an optometrist," said Bell, "after graduating last year. I can't leave Sydney because I'm about to go into a business partnership."

The Soccerroo defender was put on the list at his own request because of personal differences with coach Tom Anderson.

The trouble came to a head last week when Olympic players were due for a photographic session.

Bell was delayed because he had two patients who urgently needed attention. As a result, he was an hour late for the session.

"Tom was upset and told me off, saying I would be fined or would not go to Melbourne for the Hellas game that weekend," said Bell.

Anderson didn't take Bell to Melbourne.

"I didn't think it was fair that Tom blasted me before I had the chance to explain the situation," said Richie.

On the list after clash with coach

reconsider and play with the club.

"If I haven't found a new club by the second or third week of the P.S.L. program," said Bell, "then I will reconcile with the club."

"Playing soccer under a strain is better than not playing soccer at all."

Bell has been with Olympic for seven years and has played more than 150 games. He was club captain last year but has been replaced as skipper by Dave McIntosh.

"The club has been

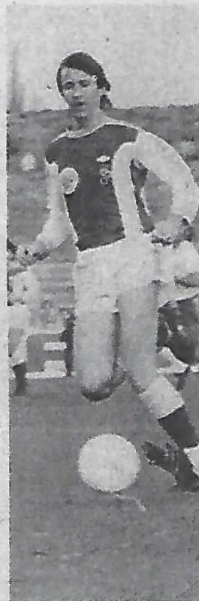
good to me," said Bell, "but I'm not satisfied that I could get what I want from soccer at Olympic."

Bell has been playing below his best lately and on top of that the club recently bought defender Paul Cotton from St. George.

Cotton's arrival made it even harder for Bell to win a spot in the team.

Hopefully Bell will be able to find a new club quickly or settle down at Olympic, as he is too talented to sit on the sidelines.

—KYLE PATTERSON



Richie Bell

Makedonians get together

The Victorian Makedonian community will have a picnic at Makedonia Park, King Lake, on Sunday, March 5.

All supporters of Preston-Makedonia are welcome.

The picnic starts at 8 am and goes all day. Usually, about 5000 people attend.

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35 refs named for World Cup

ZURICH — The International Football Federation (FIFA) has named 35 referees who will be invited to supervise play at the final series of games in the World Cup in Argentina from June 1 to 25 this year.

FIFA said the men, invited to act as referees and linesmen, would be designated for individual matches for the first final round on May 30 and the decisions will be made public at the pre-World Cup conference with heads of delegations on May 31 in Buenos Aires.

The referees were nominated by FIFA's referees committee, meeting here under Dr. Artemio Franchi of Italy.

The nominated referees are:

Angel Coerezza

(Argentina), Erich Linemayr (Austria), Francis Rion (Belgium), Arnold Coelho (Brazil), Werner Winsemann (Canada), Juan Silvagno (Chile), Patrick Partridge (England), Gebreyesus Testaye (Ethiopia), Robert Wurtz (France), Adolf Prokop (East Germany), Ferdinand Biersal (West Germany), Karoly Palotai (Hungary), Jafar Namdar (Iran), Abraham Klein (Israel), Sergio Gonella (Italy), Alfonso Archundia (Mexico), Charles Corver (Netherlands), Cesar Orozco (Peru), Alojzy

Jarguz (Poland), Antonio Jose de Silva Garrido (Portugal), Nicolae Raines (Romania), John Gordon (Scotland), Youssou N'Diaye (Senegal), Angel Franco Martinez (Spain), Ulf Eriksson (Sweden), Jean Dubach (Switzerland), Farouk Bouzo (Syria), Hedi Seoudi (Tunisia), Ramon Barreto Ruiz (Uruguay), Anatoli Ivanov (Soviet Union), Ilvan Thomas (Wales), Dusan Maksimovic (Yugoslavia), and three Argentinian referees who will act only as linesmen: Miguel Comesana, Arturo Ithurralde and Luis Pestarino.

The referees' committee also named six for its reserve list: Franz Wohrer (Austria), Alfred Delcourt (Belgium), Romualdo Arppi Filho (Brazil), Michel Kitabdjian (France), Heinz Aldinger (West Germany), and Alberto Michelotti (Italy).

Five Barkers join Knox

Knox City has started a determined push towards the Victorian First Division by signing seven new players.

Five are from Mooroolbark — Derek Bailey, Mike Shuttleworth, Steve Pongho, Eugene McConville, and Ricky van Duppen.

The other, Steve Hibbett, is from Croynod. Meanwhile, Knox has lost Colin Waller who has retired, and Frank Butt who is going back to England.

Alan Jackson has been reappointed coach.

The new professional attitude of the club was brought home strongly by the suspension of star player John Howarth for non-training.

Knox will continue playing at H.V. Jones Reserve in Ferntree Gully, but work is under way on a new ground and club rooms in Riddell Road, Knox.

About \$150,000 is being spent there, and the ground will be ready next



Derek Bailey

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YEAR F BOZIKAS



Andrew Bozikas — the man to watch.

Promotion - relegation talks sought

By LAURIE SCHWAB

The Victorian Metropolitan Leagues is seeking talks aimed partly at changing the State League promotion-relegation system. It has written to the president of the VSF, the vice-presidents, the chairman of the board and the delegates to the State League management committee.

It seeks an early meeting, controlled by an independent chairman, possibly the president of the VSF.

Other matters to be discussed include voting rights at annual meetings, the chairman's vote and the constitution of the VSF board.

The Metropolitan League has long been pushing to have two teams promoted to the State League instead of one. It has also been seeking to change the voting structure whereby every State League club has four votes, whereas Metropolitan League clubs have one vote each at VSF annual meetings.

The meeting suggested by the Metro League is long overdue. It presents the opportunity to discuss all areas of grievance in surroundings that are much more amicable than the annual meeting.

A good solution to the promotion dilemma has been put forward by, among others, the president of Green Gully Ajax, Guy Spiller.

He suggests the State League be increased to 14 clubs, and then closed for a period of two or three years, to allow those clubs to establish themselves.

After the closed period, promotion and relegation would resume, on a two up, two down basis.

This should be acceptable to everyone. Clubs would be promoted throughout the ranks to fill the vacancies created by two clubs moving up to State League.

Alternatively, says Spiller, the extra two State League clubs could be provided by country areas.

They could be representative teams from those areas, and the players comprising those teams could be free to play for his own clubs in their own country leagues, as well as for the representative team in the State League.

This suggestion has much merit. Other VSF officials have long been saying that the State League should be just that — a league representative of Victoria, not only of Melbourne.

The 1978 Philips League season which kicks off on the weekend will see the emergence of new stars — players who have been around, but who haven't yet captured the public's imagination the way they will this year.

Heading this exclusive list is Fitzroy-Alexander's attacking player Andrew Bozikas.

This exciting, skilful speedster joined Alexander a few years ago from South Melbourne Hellas, which must be regretting its decision to let him go.

Bozikas has real soccer flair, he can outplay opponents man-to-man and he has an uncanny understanding with forward Branko Buljevic.

Another player who will catch the eye this year is Mark Jankovic, the young forward Marconi bought from St. George early this year.

Jankovic has been in the national squad but was not retained for long enough to show what he can do. This year he's determined to give his very best.

Phil O'Connor joined St. George from Wollongong last year with a big reputation but showed his real talent only in patches.

After that initial settling-in season, O'Connor will be the terror of defences this year. He knows he has to show his best to fight off challenges from other St. George players, including the African-born striker Francisco Jose Maria, from Portuguese Club Porto, who'll be another star in the PSL.

Olympic has two players who'll get rave notices this year. They are young midfielder Alex Jamieson and of course goalkeeper Gary Meler who is knocking on the door of the national squad.

Ian McGregor of West Adelaide Hellas is another player in line for a spot in the national squad, but Hellas will also have stars in new signings Uros Zivkovic and Vic Bozanic.

Centre backs who will be prominent are tall, blond Peter Tokesl of Brisbane City and of course Canberra's captain Tony Henderson, who was starting to make quite a name for himself towards the end of last season.

Canberra has another budding star in young Milovanovic, and midfielder John Davies should set the league alight if all goes well with his transfer from Croatia Sydney.

Danish international goalkeeper John Hansen is sure to be a star with South Melbourne Hellas, and J.U.S.T.'s Mendo Ristovski and Joe Piccone must firmly establish themselves this year if they are to realise their enormous potential.

At the start of any season, one inevitably speculates on which teams are the favorites. I would have to go for the ones that are already firmly established.

Apart from 1977 champion Hakoah, which is in the running once more, other favorites would have to include Marconi and Adelaide Juventus.

These three have team balance and professional status.

Hakoah has been strengthened by the addition of Ernie Campbell and the impending arrival of Manecas from Portugal.

Marconi has added Mark Jankovic and Roberto Vieri.

Juventus has been experimenting wisely, and if the midfield trio of Marconi, Perin and Muniz reach top form, they could dictate play in most of their games.

Alexander will shake up many opponents due to its all-round ability and would also have to be regarded as a title contender.

The same goes for West Adelaide Hellas, under new coach John Margaritis who did so well with Alexander last year.

I have a soft spot for Footscray J.U.S.T., not only because I played and coached there, but because of the style of football the team plays.

This is the style which I would like to see dominating Australian football in the future.

South Melbourne Hellas, under new coach Dave MacLaren, has made a wise move in signing Bertie Lutton, who has always had my admiration.

Also, we have been promised a "different" Peter Ollerton, which means Hellas will be a threat to all the other teams in the league.

Olympic and St. George both spent a lot of time and hard work during the off-season in a determined attempt to improve their status.

In 1978, and both must be applauded.

St. George, which features so many exceptionally talented players, did not live up to expectations last year, but with the return of Doug Ujlesenovic and the signing of Francisco Jose Maria from Porto in Portugal, the Saints should do much better now.

Coach Tom Anderson has strengthened Olympic by signing Derek Laing from Dundee, Stuart Markland from Montrose, Paul Colon from St. George and Alan Ainslie from Western Suburbs.

This, combined with the enthusiasm of the Greek community, should guarantee that Olympic has more success this year.

Canberra City surprised a lot of teams including Marconi in 1977.

During the off season Johnny Warren and Vic Fernandez worked six days a week with their players to develop a winning style. What's more, they've signed Ken Henderson, the brother of captain Tony, and Brian Parker, who was a team mate of Brian Stoddart and Ron Tilsed in South Africa.

But the star recruit, if all goes well, will be John Davies of Croatia Sydney.

All in all, Canberra should be a greater stumbling block than ever to the other teams.

The Hermiston affair is over, but it was this affair that kept soccer alive in Brisbane during the off-season.

It's history now that he left City to join Lions and we now look forward to a defensive partnership that could be the strongest in the league — Hermiston and Col Bennett.

These two, plus other signings Lions have made, will assure that the team will achieve a much more respectable status in 1978.

City is well-known as a team capable of beating anyone, as it proved so many times last year, especially in winning the Philips Cup.

Borzi, Tokesl and the talented midfield of Schaverria, Gaffney and Pimblett will strike terror in the hearts of the bigger clubs.

I saw Newcastle United play against Lions in a practice match and was impressed by its enthusiasm and will-power. The club's management has indeed worked a small miracle in achieving so much in such a short time.

From what I saw, the material is there. The return of Ray Baartz has given the Newcastle public its idol back, the club's professional approach to administration and promotion are a sound basis for success.

To sum up, I don't think any team will be easily beaten and I believe it will be a very close struggle throughout.

...and Hakoah, Marconi or Juve for title



RALE RASIC



Andrew Bozikas scores against Adelaide Juventus goalkeeper Peter Marshall.

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Marconi's new signing, Mark Jankovic.

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Harry Williams and Dave Harding (right) training in Hamburg before Australia's game against East Germany in 1974.

HARRY WILL BE THERE IN '82

By KYLE PATTERSON

1977 was a season of extremes for Harry Williams.

One moment he was playing against giants Red Star, Celtic and Arsenal in the World of Soccer tournament as Australia held its own with the cream of European soccer.

The next he faced a barrage of criticism along with the rest of the Soccer team as Australia tumbled out of the World Cup.

Why did Australia fail in the World Cup after playing so well in World of Soccer series? The 26-year-old St. George and Australia full-back can't pinpoint the answer.

"The team seemed to freeze in the World Cup games," said Harry.

"In the World of Soccer games," he continues, "we were the underdogs and no-one expected much from us, but we proved we were capable of playing top soccer. When it came to the World Cup games everyone expected results, but we couldn't reproduce the form."

Maybe the World of Soccer tournament wasn't the right sort of build-up for do-or-die World Cup games but Williams disagrees.

The tournament helped us tremendously and we played some really good football," said Harry.

Melbourne-based fans who saw the Iran game at Olympic Park will have bitter memories of Dave Harding's penalty miss.

"I felt for Dave more than anyone else," said Harry. "Soccer is a team game," he said, "and it is wrong to blame one player for a defeat."

"I felt sorry for Jimmy Shoulder," continues Harry, "because once the team is on the park there is nothing a coach can do. It's up to the players. However, Jimmy got a lot of the blame."

Williams was first selected in an Australian squad in 1970 when he was 19. Before his selection he had played only six games in the St. George first team.

"Everything happened so quickly," he said. "I thought I was doing well getting into the St. George team, then Rale Rasic called me up for the Asian tour squad. I was stunned!"

Harry didn't play any major games on that tour, but Rasic must have seen that Williams had the potential to be a great player.

Harry made his big-game debut four years later against Indonesia in a trial game on the way to the World Cup finals in West Germany.

Williams went on to play in the finals for Australia against Chile, coming on as a substitute for Col Curran 20 minutes from the end.

Harry will be 30 when the 1982 finals come along.

"I'll still be playing in '82," he said, "but only time will tell if I'm still in the national team."

"I'm not thinking that far ahead," he continues. "My aim now is to help St. George up the table. We have a very young team, and as one of the older players I'll have to guide the youngsters."

In Williams, St. George has the right man for such a task.



Harry Williams



Hakoah's Brazilian winger Hilton Silva

Newcastle hopes for fairy-tale victory!

NEWCASTLE K.B. UNITED v. HAKOAH-EASTS at International Sports Centre, Newcastle, Sunday, 2.30 pm.

According to Ray Baartz himself, Newcastle forward Slav Catalovski, signed from Australs, is one of the players to watch in the PSL this year.

He's fast, skilful and he scores goals. Of course he'll get a lot of help from Baartz who'll have a midfield attacking role, and from winger Lloyd Hardes, who was on loan to Western Suburbs last season.

Other local players are defender John Sneddon, who was Newcastle player of the year while with West Wallsend last year, and Wallsend striker Neil Endacott.

Don Smith from Croatia Sydney will be in goal, but there's still doubt over international full back Col Curran. Curran, born and bred in Newcastle, wanted to return home to play for the new PSL club, but Western Suburbs set a transfer fee which United is apparently unable to pay.

Negotiations have been continuing during the week. Hopefully the problem will be resolved before the first game.

Incidentally, if non-Novocastrians are wondering what the initials KB are doing after the club's name, they represent KB beer, a product of Toobrewers, who are sponsoring the club for \$105,000 over three years.

Getting back to the players, half of them are imports from overseas — Peter Willis, Bill Summercales, Peter Kay, Craig Mason, Ken Boden, Mike Galpin and Bill Arney. There's also Roy Drinkwater, the former New Zealand international signed from Brisbane Lions.

The club is bristling with confidence. If it managed to beat Hakoah on Sunday, the news would probably be on the front page of the local papers.

The press and television in the northern NSW area are right behind the club, and the expected 10,000 crowd for the opening match will be enthusiastically one-eyed.

Anyone with a sense for drama will be hoping like hell for a Newcastle victory. The realists, however, must expect Hakoah to win.

It's likely to be a cut-throat season, in which the championship may be decided by as little as one point or even on goal average, as it was last year.

Hakoah is seeking to retain the title it won last year, so it's not about to drop a point in Newcastle. There may be doubt over the availability of Hakoah's

star recruit Ernie Campbell. He was sent off during Hakoah's 4-3 victory over Brisbane City recently, and may have to sit out a suspension. On the other hand, he may have been able to serve that suspension last weekend.

Terry Smith, Hilton Silva and Eddie Thompson missed the Brisbane game due to injuries, but will probably be back on Sunday, giving Hakoah the likely line-up of: Todd Clarke, Kevin Mullen, Eddie Thompson, Steve O'Connor, Henry Mowbray, Joe Watson, Murray Barnes, John Stevenson, Ernie Campbell, Terry Smith, Hilton Silva.

That's a side capable of beating anyone!

— LAURIE SCHWAB



Col Curran

England beats Germany

AUGSBURG, West Germany. — England beat West Germany 2-1 in a B International match here. There was no score at

HELLAS TEAM-WORK SHODDY

SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS v ST. GEORGE, Barton Park, Rockdale, Sydney, Sunday 3 pm.

A few weeks ago in 'Soccer Action', Bertie Lutton predicted Hellas would finish in the top four of the Philips League.

However, Hellas will not win this game and should be grateful if it gets a draw.

Hellas, as a team, is simply not playing well enough.

Coach Dave MacIaren has some brilliant players but they have yet to blend cohesively.

Lutton, Billy Rogers, Chris Kent, Peter Ollerton and Sammy Wright are

potential match-winners but there hasn't yet been a day when they all fired simultaneously.

St. George, on the other hand, is playing as a team.

Coach Ilija Takac has youth in Peter Terry and John and Robert O'Shea, combined with the experience of Australian internationals Doug Utjesenovic, George Harris and Harry Williams.

St. George plays a continental style of soccer, building up attacks from the defence and keeping possession of the ball until a pass is definitely on.

Hellas uses more of the long ball, pumping it at

target man Peter Ollerton or sending it wide, giving wingers Kent and Duncan Cummings something to chase.

However, Cummings is having a bad trot and most of the time Ollerton's flick-ons with his head aren't being picked up by Hellas players.

St. George will have to keep an eye on Kent. He has the skill to beat a defender and his pinpoint crosses have led to many goals for Hellas.

The Hellas back four has been proved suspect. Mike Pye is solid at right-back, but on the other side, Margaritis Hagegenoulis' lack of weight and speed is a problem.

In the middle, Peter Vaughan and Chris Kalafatis have the muscle, but often get themselves into trouble by trying to be fancy instead of clearing the ball first time.

George Harris will have to watch his tackling if he plays sweeper in this game. George tends to fly into some tackles, and giving away unnecessary free kicks around your own penalty area is stupid.

The midfield battle will be interesting and South Melbourne's performance will depend largely on Lutton.

Bertie is most dangerous picking up the ball in his own half from where he can split the defence with a long ball or takeoff in one of his penetrating runs.

However, unless Rogers fires, Lutton will be battling alone against Brendan Grosso, Carlos Mendez and Robert O'Shea or Rudi Gnavi.

The St. George attack is more fluent than South Melbourne's and big Neville Morgan and Phil O'Connor will pounce on any mistakes by the Hellas back four.

Even though there may not seem to be a great deal between the teams on paper, our tip is a win to St. George. — KYLE PATTERSON.



Richards missing

Ray Richards won't play for Marconi after all.

Richards announced his retirement late last year, but changed his mind at the start of 1977.

Now he's done another about face.

The reason is that he's opening yet another sports store at Carlingford in Sydney.

He already has one in Fairfield and another in Brisbane, where he played before moving to Sydney.

Marconi coach Rale Rasic said Richards would be out for at least the first half of the 1977 season.

Whether he manages to come back later, after such a long lay-off, remains to be seen, although the 1974 World Cup star was one of the finest midfielders in the Philips League last year.



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All-action Joe has sights set high

By KYLE PATTERSON

Joe Picioane is waiting eagerly for the selection of the next Australian squad.

If the 25-year-old J.U.S.T. star is picked, it will be his first taste of representative soccer at senior level.

He was chosen for the Victorian squad for the game against Middlesbrough last year but was left out after the national league clubs began to squabble about the release of players.

In the end, several players from national league clubs played and Joe was left to watch from the sideline.

"I was really disappointed," said Joe, "because it would have been my first game for Victoria."

Joe's disappointment may be forgotten if he gets a call-up for the national team.

Picioane is a natural choice for the future Australian squad.

He is young and talented and has shown that he has the ability to compete with the best.

As a midfielder, Joe combines the best of both worlds, being able to win the ball with strong tackling as well as having the skill to beat a man and pass with accuracy.

One criticism could be that he lacks a little pace.

All the guys at J.U.S.T. say that I live in the second half of games," said Joe.

"I like to be in the action all the time, but sometimes I run so much in the first half I can't keep it up in the second."

Picioane hates seeing opponents allowed to run unchallenged with the ball.

"Everyone tells me to keep to one position," he said, "but if I see an opposition player with the ball and no one tackling him, I can't stand and watch!"

Joe has a favorite position, though.

"I like playing where the ball goes," said Joe.

"That way you're always in the action."

Picioane's soccer career has had its ups and downs.

He started with J.U.S.T.'s juniors at the invitation of Zika Nikolic, who writes the Yugoslavian column for "Soc-



Joe Picioane

cer Action" and who has been with J.U.S.T. for years.

J.U.S.T. can be thankful to Zika for finding Picioane and for the hard work he has done for the club.

Joe progressed into the senior ranks, but couldn't break into the first team.

He went on loan to Slavia and then to Waverley City before transferring to Hakoah St. Kilda.

After three years with

Hakoah he returned to J.U.S.T. where his soccer talent blossomed.

The advent of the Phillips League did a lot to help Joe's game.

"Playing against top players each week makes you improve," Picioane said.

"Our two Red Star guest players, Borovnica and Nikolic, were also a great help last year."

"When you are playing with top class players," he continued, "you try that little bit harder."

And what about J.U.S.T. this year?

"I thought we were unlucky last season," said Joe.

"We had a few bad results and it's hard to keep your head up when things are going against you."

"We have basically the same team," he continued, "and we will be doing our best."

At any rate, Joe Picioane will be doing plenty of running!



Joe Picioane shoots for goal against St. George. In the middle is Joe Palinkas and behind them Brendan Grosse.



Roberto Echeverria (right) tangles with Andrew Bozikas during last year's Alexander v Brisbane City game at Middle Park. At left is Pat Bannon.

ALEXANDER TOO GOOD

FITZROY ALEXANDER v BRISBANE CITY, Middle Park, Melbourne, Saturday 3 pm.

The in-form Alexander should take both points from this game, but Brisbane City will be no pushover.

City, holder of the Phillips Cup, will be out to prove that it is still a force even without former Scottish international Jim Hermiston, who has transferred to Brisbane Lions.

To plug the gap left after Hermiston's departure, City has tried to convert Steve Perry, recently signed from Western Suburbs, from a full-back to a sweeper.

If Perry can handle the strong Alexander forward line of Branko Buljevic, Gary Cole and Andy Bozikas, then he will be able to cope with any other attack in the PSL.

The tightness of Brisbane's back four could decide the result.

If Buljevic and Co. are given the chance they will run riot, but even if the City defence is on its toes Alexander will still find a way through.

Roberto Echeverria poses a threat to Alexander. He is a fast and clever midfielder and he will have too much pace for Pat Bannon, for one.

Willie Connor can be brilliant at times and Kevin Caldwell works hard up front for City.

However, Arthur McMillan and Jim O'Reilly play it hard and tight at the back for Alexander, and along with big Bobby Provan and Jim Tansy, won't give the City strikers much latitude.

Watson boss

John Watson, a life and founder member of Doveton Soccer club, has been appointed manager of the senior team.

John, former Victorian State junior coach, had charge of a recent trial game in which Doveton drew 2-2 with top State League club Frankston.



Steve Perry — sweeper

Alexander may play its new midfielder from Scotland, but if not, the midfield will be Bannon, Jim Campbell and Ken Taylor.

Sometimes Campbell and Taylor neglect their defensive duties as midfielders, so Brisbane may be able to catch Alexander on the break.

The only way City has a chance of upsetting Alexander is by playing defensively and blotting any attacks, hoping to scrape a draw or maybe snatch a win with a break-away goal. — KYLE PATTERSON

CAN LISTER AND MATIC STOP VASIC?

ADELAIDE JUVENTUS v FOOTSCRAY J.U.S.T., Olympic Sports Field, Adelaide, Sunday, 2.30 pm.

It's not quite clear which players Juventus has or hasn't signed.

Those who have been playing in practice matches in-

clude Henry Kolecki (Polonia), Dave Rigby (Mooroolbark), Robert Marwe (Croatia SA), and Peter Kowalski (Lion).

Bugsey Nyakohus has definitely switched over from Lion, and will play at left back, the position to which he is best suited.

Kolecki appears another definite acquisition, and he will adequately compensate for the absence of Agenor Muniz who is still recovering from an operation.

However, judging from Juventus' display in losing to South Melbourne Hellas in their practice match a few weeks ago, the team does not yet look as good as it did last season.

J.U.S.T. may have a problem with one of the full back positions, as Andy Kazi has retired and Andrija Ristic has been out injured.

If Ristic is unavailable, Zoran Ilieski will probably play left back, with the right side taken by Alan Parrott.

Midfield, in that case, will be Mirko Rujevic, Joe Picioane and Mendo Ristovski, and the attack: Joe Palinkas, Dragan Vasic and John Nicolaides.

One centre back will be Jim Kondaros but the other position is doubtful because Kriaris is injured, and goalkeeper will be Mike O'Hara.



Dave Rigby (ex-Mooroolbark) in Juventus colors.



J.U.S.T. defender Jim Kriaris clears with a flying kick during last year's clash with Adelaide Juventus in Melbourne.

Kriaris is injured and will be missed. At right is Mirko Rujevic and at centre Frank Micic.

Pictures by SAM BELFONTE.

The J.U.S.T. team appears much more settled and less disturbed than the Juventus line-up, which would tip the scales in J.U.S.T.'s favor.

Vasic, who arrived late last year, will have the difficult task of confronting centre backs Frank Lister and Zoran

Matic but he's generally good for at least one goal.

The J.U.S.T. players don't particularly like travelling but if they unleash all their skills and tricks on Sunday they'll be guaranteed of starting the season with a victory. — LAURIE SCHWAB.



Dragan Vasic, J.U.S.T.'s key striker, scores against Alexander's Bob Provan (right).

Midfield trio to beat the Lions

BRISBANE LIONS v MARCONI, Perry Park, Brisbane, Sunday, 3 pm.

Were this game to be played in Sydney, Marconi would be the undoubted favorite.

However, all PSL teams have found it hard to win in Brisbane, as Marconi found last year when it lost to Phillips

Cup final to Brisbane City.

Lions' star recruit Jim Hermiston, teaming up with Socceroo Col Bennett, will make it virtually impossible for Marconi to break through the middle of the defence.

However, Lions' full backs aren't half as impressive as

the centre backs, which means Rale Rasic will instruct his team to play down the flanks.

In Peter Sharpe and Mark Jankovic he has men who can get past even the best of full backs.

However, Lions are also strong in attack, now that they have signed Barrie Fairbrother and Paul Ontong from Mooroolbark.

But they will nevertheless find it hard to notch up win-

ing goals, and they'll find it particularly hard against Marconi's experienced Ivo Prskalo on Sunday.

And what can Lions offer to combat Jimmy Rooney, Roberto Vieri and Gary Byrne in midfield?

Certainly Eddie Spearritt, Neale if he plays, and Iain Fagan are no match for the Marconi trio.

For that reason, our tip is Marconi to win. — LAURIE SCHWAB



Marconi's central striker Bertie Mariani in action against Alexander's Mike Micevski (left). Mariani will have trouble against Lions' Hermiston and Bennett.

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Ivan Grujic



Brian Stoddart

CANBERRA CITY v. WEST ADELAIDE HELLAS,
National Athletic Stadium, Bruce, Canberra, Sun-
day, 2.30 pm.

This match is a milestone in Australian soccer — the first to be played at the magnificent Bruce Stadium venue of the Pacific Conference Games last year.

Canberra City also has a social club now, and from April, poker machines will start generating income that was so desperately needed last year.

And to top it all, Canberra may have the services of one of the most exciting midfielders in Australia, John Davies from Croatia Sydney. Trouble is, St. George also wants him.

Brian Stoddart retains his reputation as one of the most creative forwards in the country and of course Tony Henderson has few peers as either a centre back or a midfielder capable of coming up to score.

There had been some doubt about the availability of midfielder Ivan Grujic. As usual, Essendon-Croatia of Melbourne was trying to gain Grujic's services, but the brilliant schemer has signed a new two-year contract with Canberra.

Ken Henderson, brother of Tony, is spoken of highly, and coach Johnny Warren expects good service from young English import Terry Byrne an apprentice from Preston North End in England.

And let's not forget Danny Moulis, that exciting young full back who'll be all the better for the experience of 1977.

But for all it pluses, Canberra will find it hard to start the season with a victory over West Adelaide Hellas.

Under the capable leadership of former Alexander coach John Margaritis the South Australians have emerged as one of the leading contenders for the championship.

Hellas may have lost John Kosmina, but it has recruited wisely in signing talented Yugoslav Vic Bozic from Polonia (SA) and Uroš Zivkovic from Beograd.

What's more, it has imported midfielder Eric Carruthers from Derby County, and has been trying out controversial forward Ulysses Kokkinos from Melbourne.

Graham Honeyman, the former Hakoah player who served a long suspension last season, will take Kosmina's place up front, and brilliant midfielder Peter Boyle is also good for vital goals.

Canberra's team will be selected from: Ben Tiled, Danny Lindemeyer, Danny Moulis, John Brown, Roy Starke, Tony Henderson, Mike Milovanovic, Ken Henderson, Ivan Grujic, Ken Henderson, Gary Porter, Brian Stoddart, Jim Cant, Steve Hogg, Terry Byrne.

Hellas' team will come from: Martyn Crook, Barry Reynolds, David Jones, Lucky Vaglanos, Vic Bozanic, Neil McGachey, Uroš Zivkovic, Graeme Norris, Gordon McCulloch, Peter Tymoczyn, Peter Boyle, Eric Carruthers, Graham Honeyman, Ian McGregor, Ulysses Kokkinos, Alex Zervas.

— LAURIE SCHWAB



Peter Stone (right) in action against former Fitzroy-Alexander striker George Gillan.

PETER STONE SET TO DO A KOSMINA

Australia and Western Suburbs midfielder, Peter Stone, will try his luck in the English First Division next season.

Stone follows the lead by John Kosmina, who is currently trying out with the famous London club, Arsenal.

If these two are successful it could lead to a mass exodus of Australia's young stars to the glamorous English League.

Stone has reached an agreement with Western Suburbs whereby it will release him after this season.

He had an opportunity to go to England to play soccer when he was 15.

"Arthur Oldham, a former professional with Middlesbrough, offered to take me back to England with him," said Peter.

"but at 15 I thought it was too young to be away from my parents. Besides I had an education to think about."

Peter stayed at school and is now a teacher.

With his future secured, Stone was able to think seriously about going overseas.

"I am going to take two years' leave without pay," he said, "so even if I don't make it I'll have a job to come back to."

Peter is not expecting to take the place by storm.

"I'll take it as it comes," he said, "but it's something I've always wanted to do, so I'll be trying my hardest."

"Just training with professionals will help my game, so I can't lose from the trip."

Stone has not signed with any club, but Nottingham Forest and Leeds United were mentioned.

A player of undoubted class, Stone broke into the Australian team for the last

few games of the World Cup campaign.

"Playing overseas improved my game," he said, "as well as being a great experience."

Stone is full of praise for Jimmy Shoulder, the former National team coach.

"Jimmy gave me confidence and made me believe in myself," said Peter.

"When I first came into the Australian squad, I was almost apologising for being there, but after a while I felt right at home."

On the topic of Western Suburbs, captain Peter Wilson has re-signed to play this season as has Dave Harding.

Although all of Australia will be wishing Peter and John Kosmina luck in England, we must also hope we don't lose them for good as they are both young and talented, and will be needed for the 1982 World Cup bid.

— KYLE PATTERSON.

West Adelaide's Peter Boyle is hoisted by the tackle of South Melbourne's Chris Kalafatis. Boyle will be a big threat to Canberra.

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HYTREN/P/121

New Scottish striker to help Olympic

SYDNEY OLYMPIC v. WESTERN SUBURBS,
Arlington Oval, Dulwich Hill, Sydney, Sunday 3 pm.

Dundee striker Derek Laing will give Olympic's attack extra sting if he arrives in time to play against Wests on Sunday.

However, it is in defence that Olympic needs to improve.

The defence was disastrous in the 1-4 loss to Alexander and a 3-4 debacle against South Melbourne Hellas.

It was as a result of the loss to Alexander that coach Tom Anderson transfer-listed centre back Richie Bell.

Dave McIntosh and Paul Coton will probably line up as the centre backs once more, but Anderson has the option of using Scottish import Stuart Markland in one of those positions.

On the other hand, Markland can be just as effective playing as a defensive midfielder.

Wests have re-signed Peter Wilson and Dave Harding, but without Graeme Norris, they may find themselves wanting in attack.

Clive Eaton is a good striker, but at the moment it looks like he'll have to shoulder too much of the responsibility.

Wests' key players will undoubtedly be midfielders Harding and Peter Stone, who was among the stars of the league last season.

The full back positions appear to be Wests coach Mike Laing's biggest headache, since Steve Petty has switched to Brisbane City and Col Curran is set on Newcastle.

Look out for Wests youngsters Mark Samuels, and Ian Rowden. They have a big future.

Our tip: A draw.

— LAURIE SCHWAB

Stuart Markland

Rinaldo to West Adelaide

Young goalkeeper Dominic Rinaldo has been granted permission to train with West Adelaide Hellas.

Rinaldo was originally refused permission by his club Lion to train with Adelaide Juventus.

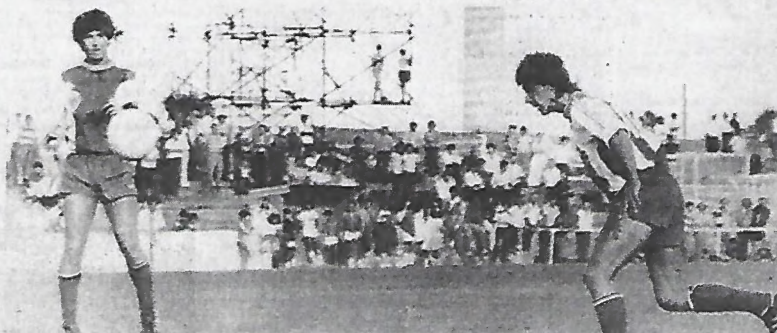
West Adelaide has a dearth of top-class reserve keepers and Rinaldo would be the obvious choice if Martyn Crook is injured.

A decision on Rinaldo's transfer should be made within the next few weeks.

Meanwhile a First Division club has approached Rinaldo but I understand he rejected the offer.

— MENO TOUTSIDIS

Clive Eaton



Olympic's Joe Senkalski (right) heads home a goal in a practice match against South Melbourne Hellas.

CROATIA A FORCE AGAIN

A special "Soccer Action" supplement on one of the biggest comebacks since Lazarus — the rise of Essendon-Croatia, out of the ashes of 1972 when the original Croatia was expelled from the VSF. The story also covers the Lions club which the Croatian soccer community took over in 1975 ...



JOHN GARDINER, player-coach, returned from Hellas recently in \$6000 transfer deal. Left Croatia for Hellas last year, in exchange for John Kennedy, Howard Andrews and cash. Joined Croatia the first time in 1976, from George Cross, for \$6000. Won the 1971 and 1972 Rothmans Medals while with George Cross. Played in Scotland for East Fife, Victorian State player.



GRANT SMART, right back, imported in May, 1977, from Scotland where he played for Montrose. The younger brother of former Lions, George Cross and Juventus star Jimmy Smart.



STEVE KOKOSKA, centre back, 1976 Yugoslav Airlines Player of the Year, bought last year from Sunshine City for \$6000. State player.



ANTE BILAYER, left back, played for Croatia reserves 10 years ago, then had a stint with Makedonia-Shepparton before joining Essendon in 1974.



KEN MURPHY, midfielder or winger, was on the books of Dundee United in Scotland and was recruited in August 1976.



Essendon-Croatia, 1978, standing from left: Frank Burlin (manager), Wally Kulyk, Eddy Krncevic, Grant Smart, Steve Kokoska, John Gardiner (coach), Dime Petrovski, Alan Kerr, Duje Zemunik (assistant coach), Billy Vojtek; Front: Danny Lacok, Brian Davidson, Ken Murphy, Tommy Cumming, Howard Andrews, Ante Bilaver, Branko Culina, Nick Kuzmanov. Missing: Drago Krajina, Silvano Franin, Joe Timpano.



HOWARD ANDREWS, midfielder, born in South Africa where he played for Durban United. Also played for Maldstone in England. Joined Essendon last year from South Melbourne Hellas.



BRANKO CULINA, midfielder, a former Croatia junior, he joined Juventus when Croatia was expelled from the VSF, and then switched to St. Albans, where he was in the first team at the age of 17. Came to Essendon at the start of 1976.



DRAGO KRAJINA, midfielder, former Juventus player who transferred in 1975. Currently injured.



ALAN KERR, midfielder, joined last year from Croatia Perth, and played in England for Sheffield Wednesday and Notts County.



BILLY VOJTEK, forward, capped 31 times for Australia. Played 48 times for Victoria. Has also captained Victoria, and together with Jimmy Mackay, was Croatia's brightest star for many years. Essendon bought him for \$8000 from Juventus last year, but he had an injury and has only now recovered from the operation.



WALLY KULYK, defender, the only player left from Lion's State League days.



BRIAN DAVIDSON, forward, came last year from New Zealand where he played for Wellington Diamond United. Played for New Zealand against Hearts and Wolves.



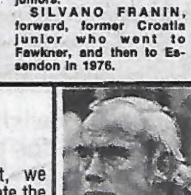
DIME PETROVSKI, goalkeeper, played for Makedonia and Yugal, and joined Essendon at the same time as Kuzmanov.



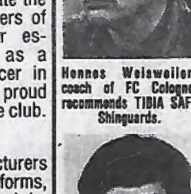
DANNY LACOK, goalkeeper, 18, went from Central Altona to Kellor City, from where he joined Essendon last year.



JOE TIMPANO, full back, product of Essendon juniors.



EDDY KRNCVIC, forward, only 17-years-old, this former Croatia junior moved to Essendon from Juventus in 1976.



SILVANO FRANIN, forward, former Croatia junior, who went to Falkner, and then to Essendon in 1976.



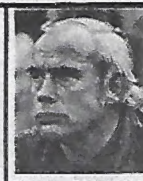
The Croatia team that won the 1968 championship, Dockerty Cup and Ampol Cup, standing from left: Hugh Gunn, Bill McArthur, Mike Kovacek, Duncan McKay, Jimmy Mackay, Horst Rau; front: Bill McIntyre, Brian Adlam, Billy Vojtek, Frank Bot, Hammy McMeekan.

Here at Habbe Sport, we would like to congratulate the committee and supporters of Essendon Croatia for establishing the club as a powerful force of soccer in Victoria. We are indeed proud to be associated with the club.

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Junior chairman: **Vinko Babic**.

Junior secretary: **Joe Vojvoda**.

Senior coach: **John Gardiner**.

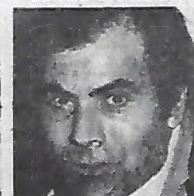
Reserves coach: **Duje Zemunik**.

Under 19 coach: **Alan Kerr**.

Steward: **Joe Naufal**.



Duje Zemunik, assistant coach



Joe Naufal, property steward



Croatia's great midfield player Horst Rau (left), stands by to help goalkeeper Mike Kovacek.

Hajduk, Preston sv up in ear amalgamat

By LAURIE SCHWAB

The history of Essendon-Croatia is one of the most confusing on record.

In telling it, we must also tell the story of Ukranian Soccer Club (USC) Lions and of Hajduk, Preston, Croat and former State League club Croatia.

It all started with the old Croatia club which was formed back in 1953 and played for two years in the Provisional League.

In 1955 Croatia finished second to Brunswick in the old Metropolitan South division. Other teams in the division were Yarra Park, Port Melbourne, St Albans and Rosebud.

The same year, Lions finished second in Metropolitan North. Coburg and Lions both had 26 points, but Coburg won the championship on goal average. Others in the division were Fairfield, University, Bayswater, UYD and Heidelberg.

In 1956, we start the story of the Hajduk club, which

played at Royal Park and whose secretary was Dr. J. Sartory.

Croatia, incidentally, played at Yarra Park No. 4 oval, and Lions at Yarra Park No. 13.

Anyway, in 1956, Hajduk won the Metropolitan North championship, with Lions again finishing second on goal average.

In the South, Croatia managed only fourth place behind Yarra Park, Rosebud and Victoria Police. What's more, Croatia lost 1-15 to Moreland in the second round of the Dockerty Cup.

And so, of the three clubs, Hajduk was the most successful, gaining promotion to the Third Division where it finished fourth in 1957, behind Yarra Park, Dandenong and Coburg.

As for Croatia and Lions, they both managed to become runners-up in their respective leagues — Croatia finishing second to Melbourne in Metropolitan South and Lions being pipped by ICI in the North.

Leading officials of this period were J. Radojevic, I. Mrkagaca, T. Durakovic, B.

Pasevic and S. Kretofil of Croatia, and V. Wirt, W. Macpherson and J. Boluch of Lions.

Moving on, we find both Croatia and Lions in Second Division North in the year 1958.

Croatia had now moved to North Geelong, where it played at Ground No. 2, in Separation Street.

Final league standings at the end of the season were: Corio 32 pts., Croatia 31, Fiorentina 29, Lions 27, University 20, Williamstown 13, Heidelberg 12, St Albans 9, Fairfield 7, Commonwealth Fertiliser 2.

Croatia's biggest wins that year were 13-1 v Williamstown and 12-1 v St Albans. Lions' biggest wins were 12-1 v Fairfield and 6-0 v St Albans.

Hajduk, meanwhile, finished seventh in a higher league, First Division North, where the championship was won by Footscray Capri.

That was the end of Hajduk, for in 1959, it agreed to amalgamate with Lions.

The new club was called Lions-Hajduk for only one season, and after that it



The 1962 Croatia outfit that won promotion to Committeemen standing, from left: Matkovic, Silver, Kiss, Troskot, Drk, Karapetvic, Jakovovic, Durakovic. Team, from left: Suhobodnik, Popovic, Vojtek, Zemunik, Mate, Pantaion, P. Basic, B. I.

reverted to USC Lions.

The amalgamation meant Lions stepped up onto First Division North along with Croatia, which had got there the normal way, by winning promotion.

For the start of that season (1959) Croatia was once again on a new ground — Corio Oval at Eastern Park, Geelong. Lions stayed put at Yarra Park.

Croatia's coaches were J. Karamatic and I. Martinac while new names on the Lions committee included secretary S. Horlaczko, treasurer O. Kucil and VSF delegate I. Senial.

Final table for 1959 was: Preston 31, Croatia 30, Lions-Hajduk 26, Sunshine 19, Sicilia 17, Maccabi 16, Corio 15, Coburg 14, Hellenic 12, Brunswick 0.

Croatia also had a good run in the Dockerty Cup, beating Fairfield 10-0, Maccabi 1-0, Sandringham 2-0 and South Melbourne 3-1 before crashing 4-12 to Wilhelmina.

At the end of the 1959 season, Croatia was sitting at the top of the table, set for promotion to the State League.

However, there had been a long dispute over a Preston v Brunswick game, which had finished in a 1-1 draw.

A few weeks after the season, the VSF ruled that Brunswick had used an ineligible player in that match, and so awarded both points to Preston, which put that club above Croatia.



The 1963 Croatia team finishing equal last with left: Rau, Vojtek, Hance Fearnie, P. Basic, Pant

This disappointed many of the Croatia officials, including well-known Enver Begovic who, some years later, was to become chairman of the VSF.

Begovic, together with others including Radojevic, Marinov, and Florescu, virtually took over the Preston club, which had until then been run by Hungarian brothers J. and H. Lipold.

Nine players also switched from Croatia to Preston. They included Dukic, Romol, Horvath, Gregovic, Tanjoni and Silver.

A reorganisation of leagues resulted in Croatia playing in First Division North and Lions in Second Division North in the 1960 season.

Croatia was overshadowed by Lions that year, finishing fifth to South Melbourne Hellas, Moonee Ponds, Corio and Fiorentina while Lions won both the senior and reserve championships in Second Division North.

Lions won the senior title with 34 points, from runner-up Collingwood which had 32 points. Third was Norlane Olympia with 23 and fourth St Albans with 19.

Lions' biggest wins that season were 17-1 v Heidelberg, 11-1 v Essendon, 10-0 v Seymour and 9-0 v Fairfield.

The reserves won the title on goal average from Fernree Gully. So, in 1961, Lions rejoined Croatia in First Division North. Preston, based in Collier Street, Preston, had meanwhile finished second last in the State League and was relegated to First Division South, where it appeared as Preston-Croatia the following season (1961).



Croatia's long-serving Frank Bot (right) in action against a Slavia opponent.

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who is today the club manager of Essendon-Croatia. Burin's fellow administrators included Tony Dural, Branko Troskot, T. Jakovovic, I. Matkovic, V. Simsek, S. Silvar, J. Jakovic, N. Matijevic, P. Madzar and N. Drk.

We now had the nucleus of what was eventually to become the mighty Croatia of the State League.

Lions meanwhile, changed their ground in preparation for their first State League season, moving from Yarra Park to Slavia's Port Melbourne ground.

Preston-Croatia also made a major change, discarding the old name and adopting the name "Croat" instead.

So the stage was set - Croat and Lions both in the State League, and the new look Croatia making a strong push in First North.

The State League ladder at the end of that season (1962) was: Hellas 32, Juventus 30, Wilhelmina 30, J.U.S.T. 29, George Cross 28, Hakoah 28, Slavia 22, Polonia 21, Melbourne 16, Croat 14, Lions 12, Moreland 2.

As you can see, Lions and Croat were disappointing.

Frank Burin's Croatia had a much better year, winning the First North championship and being promoted to the State League.

The ladder was: Croatia 39, Box Hill 34, Fiorentina 26, Alexander 26, Moonee Ponds 23, Sunshine 20, University 17, Corio 16, Collingwood 16, Sicilia 16, Heidelberg 15, Maccabi 14.

Now the Croatian community was faced with the prospect of having two clubs in the State League.

That was clearly out of the question, as one would rob the other of support.

To solve the problem the clubs amalgamated.

The new Croatia club stayed at the Maribyrnong Speedway. President was Enver Begovic, secretary Frank Burin, treasurer H. Maska, chairman I. Marinovic.

Lions switched from Port Melbourne to Montgomery Park, Essendon, and so, was later to be known as Essendon-Lions.

A prominent name that appeared among the Lions officials that year was K. Schaffert, who served as a VSF delegate for some years.

Lions did fairly well in the league, finishing eighth, but for Croatia, it was a disastrous season, as the club finished second last, ahead of last-placed Richmond.

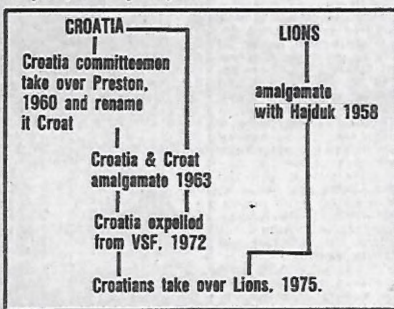
Begovic and Richmond boss Adam Pfeiffer took legal action against the VSF, claiming there had been an agreement that the two last-placed clubs should have the right to play off against clubs coming up, to decide the promotion-relegation set-up.

The VSF argued there had been no such official agreement, and won, meaning Croatia and Richmond had to take the big drop.

Lions started the 1964 season by reaching the Am-



The Croatia team that won promotion back to State League in 1964, from left: Burin (manager), Silvar, Kovacek, Brescuso, Tato, Matijevic, Becsi, Richmond, Rau, Troskot (president), Norris, Billy Vojtek, Jimmy Vojtek.



pol Cup final, where it was beaten 2-0 by Polonia.

Croatia, featuring many top players including Bill and Jim Vojtek, Horst Rau and Ollie Norris, won the First Division championship and was promoted back to the State League.

The 1965 season was a turning point for both clubs. It pointed Croatia towards success and Lions towards eventual failure.

Croatia started the season by losing six of the first seven games but after spending more than £5000 (the equivalent of about \$50,000 today) on new players, the team finished sixth.

Hammy McMeechan was bought from Slavia for a then Victorian record fee of £1200.



Jimmy Mackay, who later played for Hakoah-East and SM-Hellas.

McMeechan was in Australia's World Cup squad later that year, and also became Croatia's top scorer for 1965.

Other signings included Bobby McLachlan, Bill McIntyre, Brian Adams, Joe Keenan, Ian Currie and of course the great Duncan McKay.

McKay, the former Celtic full back and Scottish international, was signed by Frank Burin when Burin was overseas on his recruiting mission.

McKay's first game was against Trieste but Croatia lost 4-5. Fifteen games later Croatia had gained 22 more points, finishing with a total of 25.

Other players that year were Wright, Rau, Bot, Becsi, Matijevic, Chetcuti, Kovacek and Billy Vojtek. The great Jimmy Mackay joined at the end of the season.

Lions finished second last. Its president was V. Hadjigeorgis, manager-secretary John Vandelo, and vice-president Stan Plekan, a former Victorian State player.

Bill Hamilton (ex-Kilmarnock) was team captain.

Tommy Roosevelt, a State player, was top scorer and it was his goals plus those of Hamilton, Kerklaan and latecomer Smits that saved Lions from relegation.

Final ladder of 1965 was: Hellas 34, George Cross 32, Juventus 30, Slavia 29, J.U.S.T. 26, Croatia 25, Hakoah 23, Polonia 21, Wilhelmina 18, Melbourne 12, Lions 8, Trieste 6.

Jan Hemmerling had started the season as Lions' coach, but Mike de Bruyckere, the former Dutch international from Wilhelmina, became player-coach later.

Steve Walker, later with Hellas and now with Juventus, also joined Lions in 1965. Other Lions players of the era included Fred Kleiner, Joe and Franz Marth (later with St Albans), Peter Aldis who came from Aston Villa, the long-serving Frank Schwartz and goalscorer Rolf Beinhorn.

The 1966 season was one of consolidation for Croatia.

Lions fared better but resumed its slump in 1967, when the final ladder was: Melbourne 34, Juventus 32, Croatia 27, Hellas 27, J.U.S.T. 26, Hakoah 25, Slavia 22, George Cross 17, Polonia 16, Lions 14, Alexander 13, Makedonia 10.

In 1968, Lions featured Scottish midfield dynamo Jimmy Rooney, who later played for Prague and APIA and who is now with Marconi. Rooney won the Victorian Argus Medal as player of the year, while another prominent player was forward Jimmy Smart, who was to go on to George Cross, Juventus and Dandenong.

Croatia was at Olympic Park now, and Lions' officials included George Sawczak who was delegate to the VSF.

It was Croatia's most successful year on record, winning the Ampol Cup, the Dockerty Cup and the State League championship.

The basic team that year was: Mike Kovacek, Duncan McKay, Hugh Gunn, Bill McArthur, Frank Bot, Horst Rau, Jimmy Mackay, Billy



The last Lions team, before the Croatian takeover. The team finished seventh in 1974. Standing, from left: Rade Covic, Wally Kulyk, Russell Pasczynny, Joe Tamparo, Alex Napadowald, Graeme Haynes, Bill Dackin, Tony Vrzina (manager-coach). Front: Michael Chudiek, Bruno Malolo, Andy DePetro, Zdenko Brkljacic, Ian Leaves, assistant coach Bressan.

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Continued page 10

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From page 9

McIntyre, Hammy
McMeechan, Billy Vojtek,
Alfred Glaser.

The final ladder was:
Croatia 33, Polonia 26, Hellas
25, Hakoah 24, Lions 24,
George Cross 22, Wilhelmina
22, Slavia 19, Juventus 19,
Melbourne 18, J.U.S.T. 16,
Alexander 16.

In 1969 Croatia retained the
Dockerty Cup, beating
Juventus 3-1 in the final after
having earlier disposed of
George Cross 3-1, Ringwood
United 6-1 and Wilhelmina 1-0.

However, J.U.S.T.,
coached by Rele Reale, won
the championship, and
Croatia had to be content with
fourth place, while Lions
finished sixth.

In 1970 Croatia featured
Ray Wixey, Bobby
Symington, Brian Williams,
Ivan Turicar and Joe Rahler
in addition to regulars Vojtek,
Mackay, Gunn, McIntyre,
McArthur and Kovacek. It
was also the year Frank Bot
retired.

Star of the Lions team was
Ian McCarthy, the hard-
working midfielder who later
went to Melbourne and is now
with Sunshine City.

Others in the team included
Collinson, John Robertson,
Tommy Robertson, Eddie
Butler, Hugh Murney, van
Zelst, Keenan, Tochei,
McGuinness and Murray.

Croatia finished fourth in
the league, while Lions were
near the foot of the table.

The following year, 1971,
was the most disastrous in
Lions' history. The team went
15 games before scoring its
only win of the season and it
took 873 minutes of play
before Eddie Butler managed
the team's first goal.

Lions' 0-6 loss to Ringwood
Wilhelmina in the last game of
the year, was the biggest of
the league that year. In
recording only one win and
scoring only 10 goals, Lions

created record "lows" which
still stand today.

John Livingstone was the
top scorer for the year. His
total: three!

Croatia, on the other hand,
achieved more triumphs.

It started the season by
winning the Ampol Cup final
5-1 against J.U.S.T. with Voj-
tek (2) Mackay (2) and
Turicar scoring the goals.

Miele replied for J.U.S.T.
Croatia also won the Inter-
state Ampol Cup against
Western Suburbs, with McIn-
tyre scoring a hat-trick.

In the State League Cup
final, Croatia beat Hellas 3-2
to also lift that trophy.

Goalscorers were Kuzilek,
Ivanovic and Adlam for
Croatia and Armstrong and
Casady for Hellas.

Croatia also won the State
League reserves cham-
pionship, on goal average
from Wilhelmina and Hellas.

The senior State League
ladder was: J.U.S.T. 33,
Hellas 32, Croatia 27,
Melbourne 27, Wilhelmina 24,
George Cross 24, Polonia 22,
Juventus 21, Hakoah 20, Box
Hill 16, Alexander 13, Lions 5.

Croatia started the 1972
season by again winning the
Ampol Cup, but this was to
be the last year of the club's
existence!

Everything went smoothly
until there was a crowd distur-
bance during a match against
Hakoah at Olympic Park near
the end of the season.

As a result, the VSF
decided to expel Croatia
from the federation.

Croatia fought the decision
through legal channels but to
no avail.

The team had collected 19
points during the season,
which would have put it into
seventh place, but instead, it
was expelled.

Lions, meanwhile,
struggled in the First Division,
finishing third last, while
Slavia won the championship
to be promoted back to State
League.

Lions' officials that year in-
cluded S. Hnativ and V.
Mahorin.

Croatia, of course, lost its
players. Vojtek went to
Croatia Sydney, Mackay to
Hakoah-Sydney, McIntyre to
Hellas, Kondaric, Turicar
and Hadlavdic to Keilor-
Austria.

Although they no longer
had a soccer team, the
Croatia officials continued to
have weekly meetings every
Tuesday, as well as picnics
and other social functions
waiting for an opportunity to
get back into soccer.

Eventually Lions were to
give them that opportunity.

Quite clearly, much of the
enthusiasm had left Lions and
the effect was seen in the per-
formance of the team, which
finished ninth in the First Divi-
sion in 1973, the year
Mooroolbark won promotion.

In July 1974, Tony Vrzina,
who had coached Croatia in
1971 and 1972, became
coach of Lions. It was an ap-
pointment that led to the
eventual Croatian take-over
of the Lions club.

Lions were second last,
with seven points and only six
goals to go when Vrzina took
over. He brought with him

Hammy
McMeechan —
bought from Slavia
for the then record
price of \$1200.

The following year, 1975,



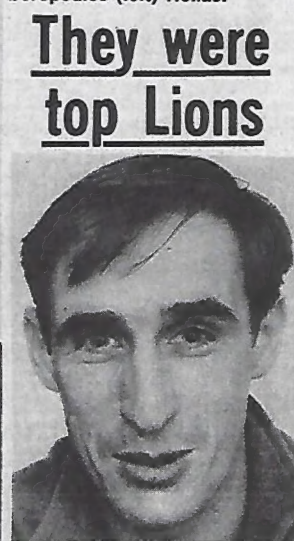
Joe Marth (left), a top Lions
defender of the 60s, pictured here
with Polonia's Eddy Jankowski.



Lions wing-half Freddy
Kleinert, with Boullis Kam-
boropoulos (left) Hellas.



Mike de Bruyckere, the former
Dutch international who was
Lions' player-coach.



Tommy Rosewell — defender
and forward of the late sixties and
early seventies.



Jimmy Rooney — he won the
Argus Medal with Lions in 1968.



Midfielder Ian McCarthy, now
with Sunshine.

the Croatian takeover
became complete. A total of
\$25,000 was handed to the
Ukrainian committee as com-
pensation for the money it
had spent on Montgomery
Park, Essendon.

A new committee was set
up, comprising people who
had been associated with the

defunct Croatia club. They
are: Tomo Bozic, Nick Dik,
Milo Cestlar, Tomo Hrvo-
jevic, Sime Puhalic, Ernest
Vojtek, and Stanko Bukov-
sak.

President-manager was
Tony Vrzina and coach Duje
Zemunik.

The first thing the new

leaders did was to change the
team's colors from gold and
blue to the Croatian colors of
red, white and blue.

Vrzina then negotiated the
transfer of Hugh Gunn and
Mike Kovacek from Juventus,
and later Ivan Turicar from
Austria.

However, the team was still
running about eighth, so
defender Clarke and inter-
national forward Willie
Rutherford were flown in on
loan from Croatia-Sydney,
and Essendon-Lions, as they
were known, finished sixth.

At the start of 1976, former
Croatia junior Branko Culina,
was transferred from St
Albans and Vrzina hailed the
youngster as a "new Vojtek".

Vrzina also negotiated the
purchase of dual Rothmans
Medallist John Gardiner for
\$6000 from George Cross. It
was the biggest sum yet paid
by a Metropolitan League
club.

Other newcomers were
Nick Kuzmanov and Dime
Petrovski from Yugal, Ken
Murphy and Craig Wallace
from the U.K., George Train



Committeemen celebrate Croatia's 1968 Ampol Cup triumph,
from left: Messrs Vojtek, Jakobovic, Perkic, Sivic, Bozic, Kiss
(coach), Vrzina, Begovic (president), Nakic, Mustapic.

Cont. page 11



Croatia's 1989 Dockerty Cup winners, standing from left: Gun: Voigt, Williams, Kiss (coach), Burin (manager), Davis, Bot, the masseur, J. Mackay, McArthur; front: Rahjer, Vojtek, McIntyre, Hargreaves.

Gardiner joins and then— State League!

From page 10

from Slavia, Ivan Grujic from Canberra and Drago Kraljina and Eddy Krnoevic from the Juventus juniors.

Thus Essendon finished third in the league and reached the semi-finals of the Dockerty Cup.

As a result of J.U.S.T., Hellas, Alexander and Mooroolbark joining the State League to leave the national league, four teams had to be promoted from the First Division to fill the vacancies.

Essendon was one of them. The others were Altona, Frankston and Green Gully-Ajax.

Essendon started 1977 by buying Billy Vojtek for \$6000 from Juventus and winning the Ampol Cup, beating George Cross in the final.

But it was a year of upheaval. The old committee stepped down and was replaced by a new committee, headed by president Ivan Luburic and manager Frank Burin.

Although they lured Vojtek and John Wallace from Hakoah, Essendon lost John Gardiner to Hellas, Grujic to Canberra City and Craig Wallace to Brisbane City.

The expensive purchase of defender Steve Kokoska from Sunshine and signings John Kennedy and Howard Andrews from Hellas solved part of the problems, but more gaps had yet to be filled.

Burin therefore negotiated the signing of forward Brian Davidson from New Zealand

and George McMillan and Alan Kerr from Perth. In addition, former Croatia star Duncan McKay returned from Perth to coach the Essendon team, and full back Grant Smart was imported from Scotland.

It turned out to be a good season. Although the team finished seventh in the league, it reached the Dockerty Cup final where it was beaten on penalties by Juventus, and its reserves won the Armstrong Cup, with Silvano Franic scoring the goal that beat Hakoah 1-0 in the final.

Now called Essendon-Croatia, the club has started the season well by buying dynamic forward Tommy Cumming from Sunshine for \$6000.

However, it made a controversial decision in sacking coach McKay.

The new playing-coach is John Gardiner, who was bought back from Hellas for \$6000.

Billy Vojtek has recovered from an achilles tendon operation and should be fit to play by the start of the winter season.

John Kennedy is leaving, but Croatia will sign a new goalkeeper, Rodney Hattam, 20, from Croatia in Hobart, is expected to arrive this week.

He had trial games here over the Christmas period and may prove the man Croatia is looking for.

One thing is certain: Croatia is aiming at the 1978 championship.

MILESTONES

Milestones in the history of Croatia, Lions and Essendon-Croatia:

1958: Croatia second in Second Division North, promoted to First North.

1960: Lions win Second North and Second North Reserves, promoted.

1961: Lions win First North and First North Reserves, promoted to State League.

1962: Croatia wins First North, promoted to State League and amalgamates with Croat.

1963: Croatia relegated.

1964: Croatia wins First Division, promoted to State League.

1968: Croatia wins State League, Ampol Cup and Dockerty Cup, beaten by Hakoah-Sydney in Interstate Ampol Cup final. Jimmy Rooney of Lions with Victorian Argus Medal.

1969: Croatia wins Dockerty Cup.

1971: Croatia wins Ampol Cup, State League Cup; and Interstate Ampol Cup final. Lions relegated.

1972: Croatia loses Interstate Ampol Cup final to St. George, and at the end of the season, is expelled from the VFL.

1975: Croatians take over the Lions club.

1976: Essendon-Lions (Croatia) elected as one of four First Division clubs to fill State League vacancies caused by the departure of Hellas, J.U.S.T., Alexander and Mooroolbark to the national league.

1977: Essendon wins Ampol Cup.

good midfielder and a good goalkeeper.

"During the off-season we also followed a youth policy, which resulted in Croatia gaining the following young players—Vinko Pavlovic and Zvenko Jutrisa from Green Gully, Philip Vuk from Broadmeadows, Josef Blesnik and Nick Tatro from George Cross and Orazio Makeševac and Joe Pavlekovic from Sunshine.

"We also have high hopes for reserve players Joe Timpano, Frank Franic and Silvano Franin.

"Our under 18s won the Cup and championship last season, and we may get two or three good senior players from that team."

The club's long-term aim, Burin added, was to get into the national league as soon as there is an opening.



Frank Burin

Essendon-Croatia manager Frank Burin is upset that the club has lost the use of Montgomery Park in Essendon.

Croatia will play at Olympic Park this season.

"It appears that in most cases, councils are trying to push soccer out of their areas," he suggested.

"Our first priority must be to find good training and playing facilities," he added.

On more immediate aims, Burin said: "The club has a responsibility to its many supporters to be successful this season."

"At the beginning of last year we were unfortunate to lose John Gardiner and Ivan Grujic, which meant we had to start team-building again.

"However, we now have Gardiner back, and we recruited well towards the end of last season and early this year when we bought Tommy Cumming.

"We're pretty right at the moment, although we probably could use one more



Ray Wixey — played right back for Croatia for about four years.



Essendon Croatia's under 9 team which won the Cup and championship last year, standing from left: Omisel (manager), Gagula, Bacak, Tadinac, Kolcog, Zenoral, Marko, Duvnjak, Ramljak (coach); front: Omisel, R. Ramljak, Galic, S. Ramljak, Visevic, Borrelli, Kelic.



Brian Adlam — long-serving Croatia winger.

New ground top priority

Essendon-Croatia manager Frank Burin is upset that the club has lost the use of Montgomery Park in Essendon.

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**KNUT
WERNER**

Greaves can start wheelchair soccer

Word has arrived that an Englishman, one Jimmy Greaves has contacted the Philips League and has graciously offered his services as a player.

It is, financially, a very viable proposition, for Mr. Greaves can come out at half price on his pension card.

I am not suggesting that age is or should be a barrier, but if the league is as desperate as to accept Mr. Greaves' offer, I can be of immense service with my vast contacts at the old people's home.

May I exhort the league to get in touch with **Joe Matassia** who used to double-date with **Dame Nellie Melba** and her mother.

And let's not overlook that famous neanderthal, **Pete "Turn of the century" Mason**, before his crutches wear out.

The league could enter into another field of entertainment along the lines of the **Muhammad Ali** versus the Japanese Sumo wrestler force.

We could set new highs in gate takings with exhibitions of people turning senile, or that great draw card — the wheezing and falling down event.

The Victorian Football League, ever trying to diversify, put on a real lulu on Saturday's World of Sport — handballing.

I sat amazed before the spectacle of half a dozen men per side, all looking like they could kick-start a leopard tanks, running around a basketball court punching the egg-ball to each other and scoring by hitting what appeared to be a bit of wood.

For those who may have seen this awe-inspiring piece of art, forgive me if my interpretation is not correct, for so amazed and agog was I, that I kept falling off the bar stool in fits of somnolence.

I mention this as an example of possible added sidelines for the league.

Hellas could challenge the mighty Demons or carnieblues to an instant death play-off of walking sticks at three paces.

Or wheelchair soccer.

Or penalty kicking with plegm spitting.

These are just some of the endless possibilities of utilizing those players who would have, under the present system, retired from the game.

Now, when a club signs a player it will indeed be for life. Clubs now without social establishment can save a

George Cross may miss out on semis

ESSENDON CROATIA 3 (Cumming, Krncovic, Kuzmanov) GEORGE CROSS 1 (Paparas) after extra time. Olympic Park, Saturday night.

CROATIA: Petrovski 7, Smart 8, Gardiner 6, Kokoska 7, Blavier 7, Andrews 7, Davidson 5 (Kuzmanov 65th min), Murphy 6, Culina 8, Krncovic 8 (Franklin 85th min), Cumming 7.

GEORGE CROSS: Kaster 7, McConville 6, Maitland 7, Webb 6, Barron 8, Kelly 7, Murphy 7, Cutajar 6, Mirak 6 (McIntosh 6, half-time Blisic 60th min), Reed 6, Paparas 7.

There is no love lost between Croatia and George Cross and that is exactly how the game was played — no favors given or asked for.

The first 10 minutes of the game were used by both teams to test each other out.

During these opening minutes players treated the ball like a hot potato, passing it before they were collected by a bruising tackle.

Ante Blavier let the Cross forwards know he meant business as Paul Murphy and Howard Andrews had a bumping deal in the middle of the park.

When the game settled down, Croatia looked impressive with Eddie Krncovic winning a lot of balls in the air up front.

However, it was George Cross that drew first blood.

As the Essendon defence ran out, trying to catch a Cross forward offside, the ball was clipped through into space.

Jim Paparas ran onto the pass and skillfully lobbed the ball over the groping Dime Petrovski into the net.

The goal was slightly against the run of play as George had done little attacking, with Ken Reed kept quiet by Steve Kokoska and John Gardiner.

Croatia continued to pressure the George Cross back-four, with

Branko Culina causing many headaches in the 25th minute, Culina knocked a ball to Krncovic who flicked it back into his path. A further exchange of passes between the two resulted in Culina cracking a shot just past the post.

Derek Barron was solid at left back for George and Paparas and Murphy worked hard.

However, it was only a matter of time before Essendon would equalise.

Two minutes into the second half Culina hit the post and later it was only a great save by Lou Kaster from a close range shot by Krncovic which kept George's lead intact.

Lead became more active for George Cross, but the midfield lacked penetration without injured player-coach Billy Wilkinson.

With time ticking away, it looked like Cross was going to hold on and snatch victory.

Tommy Cumming had other ideas.

The pint-sized winger crept in unnoticed on the near post and headed home a low corner from Culina.

At the end of full-time, the score was 1-1 and extra time of two 10 minute halves was played.

The constant pressure applied by Croatia finally got too much for George and after five minutes of extra time, the result was a foregone conclusion.

Two goals — one a header by Krncovic and the other from a breakaway by Nick Kuzmanov — sank the State League champions and put a big dent in their hopes of getting into the semi-finals.

KYLE PATTERSON.



Juventus defenders Fausto Tarquinio (left) and Steve Walker crash into each other as well as sandwiching Gerry Tribuzzio of Ajax. Picture by SAM BELFONTE.

JUVENTUS BRINGS BACK MEMORIES

JUVENTUS 1 (Smith penalty 44th) GREEN GULLY AJAX 0.

JUVENTUS: Graham (injured, sub Harby 7, 10th min), Sabadini 6, Pfister 6, Walker 6, Tarquinio 7, Sabidussi 7, Smith 5, Sannipoli 7, Watkins 8, Curcio 7, J. Lucchesi 5.

AJAX: Denys 8, S. Klein 5, Patten 6, Donaldson 7, Cole 5, L. Thomson 6, Cook 5, J. Thompson 5, Segi 5, Tribuzzio 5, Perkin 7.

Juventus had to rely on a penalty for the third successive week when it beat Ajax 1-0 at Olympic Park last Friday.

The team's inability to score regular goals is reminiscent of its 1973 Ampol Cup campaign, before penalties were introduced to prevent draws.

In that campaign, Juventus topped its section by scoring only one goal.

Against Ajax it was, as usual, captain Charlie Smith who converted the penalty.

However, this time the penalty was unjustified.

It was awarded in the second half when Peter Donaldson fouled Curcio, and from the free kick, taken by Watkins, Sabidussi headed last wide.

Then Curcio put the ball into the net for Juventus, but Denys had been pushed and the goal was rightly disallowed.

After Smith had scored from the controversial penalty, Denys prevented Juventus from going further ahead by saving a good shot by Sannipoli.

Gerry Tribuzzio had the best scoring chance of the game when he got the ball unopposed after a corner, but he missed from 15 metres.

Mike Harby, who had replaced injured Juventus goalkeeper Hugh Graham after only 10 minutes, stole some of the limelight from Denys when he made an uncanny save from a great shot by Lee Thomson and in the last few moments, Tribuzzio came close with two good attempts.

— LAURIE SCHWAB

Over the hero

ALBION LEYLAND 2 (McCormack, D'Sylva) pens. Maikousis, McCormack, Greechan, Nisbet. v ALTONA CITY 2 (G. Train, Banagan) pens. Train, Ackers.

ALBION: Oliver 7, Nisbet 7, McCluskey 6, Maikousis 7, Johnstone 6, Bentley 7, Greechan 5, D'Sylva 8, McCormack 6, Quinn 7, Lenders 6.

ALTONA: van der Poel 6, Plessa 6, Murray 6, Gramsbergen 7, Train 6, Davidson 6, Innis 5 (Waterman 5, 55th min), Banagan 6, Ignatidis 5 (Brazil, 85th min), Ackers 6, Taylor 6.

Jeff Oliver was the hero for Albion Leyland when he saved two spot kicks in the penalty showdown to give his team a win.

Oliver saved penalties by Albion's Bob Taylor and Jim Waterman.

For Leyland it was a change of luck. The last time it was involved in a penalty showdown, against Sunning in the opening round of the Ampol Cup, it came off second best.

The first half of the game was even but Albion was still doing a lot of ball-watching, a mistake which was costly the previous week against Makedonia.

Kit Greechan and Gordon

Bentley did a lot of running in midfield, but in the hot conditions they soon tired.

Half-time hero last week, Bill McCormack, was kept right out of the game by Rob Gramsbergen, who put on a masterful display of tight close-marking defence.

The score remained deadlocked at 0-0 until the 55th minute.

Taylor chased a through ball for Albion and the Albion players looked hopefully to the linesman for an offside flag.

Danny McCluskey ran after Taylor, but his challenge was unfair according to the referee and a penalty was awarded.

George Train stood the spot kick home to put Albion into the lead.

Albion answered the challenge and five minutes later was back on level terms.

Greechan's corner came off the bar and Mike D'Sylva forced it back towards goal where McCormack had an easy tap-in.

Albion looked more alive in the second half after coach Joe Wilson

had given the players a dressing down at the interval.

Albion went back into the lead 15 minutes from the end with a goal by Mick Banagan.

There was an element of luck involved as he mis-hit his shot and Overdiv expected a full-blooded one, only to see the ball spin into the net out of his reach.

The game looked over but a brilliant goal by D'Sylva two minutes from the end necessitated extra time.

Albion had given away a throw-in near the corner flag, but Keith Murray headed clear.

The Albion defenders and keeper Hans van der Poel were helpless as D'Sylva caught the clearance on the volley and sent it like a rocket into the back of the net.

Albion earned a second chance and after the teams were still locked together at the end of extra time it was Jeff Oliver's brilliance between the sticks that gave Albion the two points.

They made it hard for themselves

SLAVIA 2 (Paton, M. O'Halloran) RINGWOOD CITY 1 (O'Callaghan). Olympic Park, Saturday night.

SLAVIA: Clarke 6, Thomson 6, Westley 6, Symington 7, Short 6, Randles 7, Bolton 6 (M. O'Halloran 6, half-time), Bennie 8, Paton 7, Gilder 6, Williams 6 (J. Train, 60th min.).

RINGWOOD: Wilding 5, Adams 6, Luyten 6, de Bruyckere 6, Verniers 6, Thom 7, Schott 5, Plumb 7, Tattersall 6 (Kupinic, 55th min.), O'Callaghan 7, Greenwald 5 (Pendry, 55th min.).

Slavia made five changes to its team after being thrashed by Albion Leyland the previous week.

In came Carl Gilder, John Paton, Frank Thomson, Barry Bolton and Tommy Randles, the Slavia coach.

They replaced Mike O'Halloran, Jim Train, Daryl Goch, Les

Owens and Mick Habbins.

The chopping and changing got Slavia its first win in this season's Ampol Cup series, but the overall performance of the team didn't improve greatly.

In fact, with an ounce of luck, Ringwood could have taken Slavia to extra time instead of going down through a goal late in the game.

Neither team had won or scored a goal before this match and the only significance of the result is that Ringwood will now most probably finish bottom of the Group B table.

Slavia still has problems. It missed some splendid chances to seal the game and its defence often lapsed, letting the Ringwood forwards in when there should have been no danger.

Jim Williams and Steve Bennie were the main offenders when talking about wasted goalscoring opportunities.

They blazed shots over the bar when well placed to score, and coach Randles must have been particularly unimpressed with Williams' effort as he substituted him soon after he had fluffed a good chance to score.

Ringwood tried hard but it has a patchy team with too many non-contributors.

Paul Wilding, in the Ringwood goal, didn't help his team-mates with his distribution.

His kicking and throwing were erratic, and he looked more like a reserve keeper who had just come up into the team than a player who has national league experience.

Slavia's first goal was partly Wilding's fault.

Jim Springington gave a good ball to John Paton, but Paton was near the goal-line with three defenders around him.

Somehow he managed to weave

his way around them and put the ball into the net from an impossible angle.

The defenders should have stopped him but even so, Wilding should have had the shot covered.

Ringwood twice had the ball scrambled off the line, but the trouble was entirely of the Slavia defenders' own making.

John O'Callaghan put himself into the fray for Ringwood, and the stocky forward came close when he followed up a shot which Peter Clarke had spilled.

It was O'Callaghan who equalised for Ringwood when he headed home from close range from a corner in the 80th minute.

With time ticking away both teams defended desperately, not wanting to give anything away so late in the game.

However, Mike O'Halloran shot Slavia into the lead with five minutes to go after some good work by Jim Train, making it three losses on end for Ringwood.

— Kyle Patterson

Standings

Ampol Cup standings:

SECTION A

W L F A P
Juventus 3 0 3 0 6
Ess Cross 3 0 8 1 8
Frankston 2 7 3 2
Geo Cross 1 2 3 4 2
GG-Ajax 1 2 2 4 2

SECTION B

W L F A P
Makedonia 3 0 8 1 6

Albion 2 1 7 4 4
Sunning 2 1 4 3 4
Altona 1 2 3 2 2
Slavia 1 2 2 5 2
Ringwood 0 3 1 0 0

Top scorers: 5 McCormack (Albion); 3 McMillan (Mak), Smith (Juve); 2 Cumming (Ess Croatia), Banagan (Altona), Eadie (Frank), D. Thomson and in the last few moments, Tribuzzio came close with two good attempts.



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Final matches

Albion Leyland and Sunshine City this week face games that will crucially affect their chances of reaching the Victorian Ampol Cup semi-finals.

Albion and Sunshine are first in line to join Makedonia as Group B semi-finalists. Sunshine looks to have the better chance of victory, as it meets Slavia. Albion faces a tough task against Makedonia.

RINGWOOD v. ALTONA
(Olympic Park, Friday, 7.30 pm)

Albion is determined to wipe out the memory of two successive repeats, and should do against a Ringwood team that finally managed to score its first goal last week.

Ringwood coach Fred Bunce admits that his team is not yet fit.

Albion, on the other hand, did quite well in drawing 2-2 with Albion last week, before losing on penalties.

Mick Banagan has struck scoring form just at the right time, and Bob Grambergen should have little problem keeping out Ringwood's weak forward line.

Our tip: ALTONA.

ALBION LEYLAND v. MAKEDONIA

(Olympic Park, Friday 9 pm)

Albion is the surprise team of the Ampol Cup due to the poor scoring feats of Bill McCormick, who added another against Albion to bring his total to five in three games.

McCormick will tower above Makedonia centre backs Tom Brewerton and Paul Glascock, hitting him a big threat in the air.

Albion has other winners in Mike D'Sylva, Kili Green and George McKinnell and coach Tommy McPherson will be looking for big things from recruit Derek Doolan if he plays.

But whereas Albion has strength in attack and midfield, it remains to be seen whether Slavia can improve enough to match Sunshine, which is in fine form.

Our tip: MAKEDONIA.

SUNSHINE v. SLAVIA
(Olympic Park, Saturday 7.30 pm)

With Ray Pocock in tremendous form, Sunshine must be favored to win this game, but Slavia is somewhat of an unknown quantity because of its four new players.

One of them, John Paton, scored a goal last week against Ringwood.

Tommy Randless, the former Slavia star turned coach, made his comeback as a player last week and should make a big difference to the team.

However, it remains to be seen whether Slavia can improve enough to match Sunshine, which is in fine form.

Our tip: SUNSHINE.

Mike Dixey and Kaz Piotrowski are one of the top centre-back combinations in the State League, and they should be able to hold even Steve Bonnie, who played so well last week.

Our tip: SUNSHINE.

ESSENDON-CROATIA v. JUVENTUS
(Olympic Park, Saturday, 9 pm)

A victory to Juventus would assure the Italian club of a place in the final, but it may get there even if it loses on Saturday.

The defence of Serge Sabadin, Uli Pfisterer, Steve Walker and Fausto Tarquinio is probably stronger than the others Croatia has so far encountered.

However, Juventus does not have a forward line to match that strong defence.

Perhaps Juventus would be better off playing Mick Watkins in the middle of the attack, and letting Tony Curcio go to the wing.

Curcio was a good winger at Albion, and Watkins is the only forward who looks good enough to score. Yet any change will probably be in vain.

With Branko Culina firing in midfield, Grant Smart and Ante Blazevic better than ever in the full back positions and Eddy Krncevic getting better with every game, Croatia is the form team of the moment.

Our tip: CROATIA.

GREEN GULLY AJAX v. HAKOAH
(Green Gully Reserve, St. Albans, Sunday 1.30 pm)

There can be little doubt about the outcome of this match, after Hakoah's 6-3 thrashing by Frankston last week.

Ajax may not be quite as strong as Frankston, but certainly looks better than Hakoah.

Dave Parkin, Andy Segl and Gerry Tribuzio will prove too tricky for the Hakoah defence and should manage a respectable score if they get support from Nick Cook and Les Thomson in midfield.

Our tip: AJAX.

FRANKSTON v. GEORGE CROSS
(Green Gully Reserve, Sunday 3 pm)

Frankston got the confidence it needed last week, and looks a good bet to beat George Cross on Sunday.

Keth Webster is in fine form and together with Jed Bannan and Alex Tulloch he will assure Frankston of control in midfield.

Steve Irvine, Eric Gillespie, Vince Bannan and Ian Williamson look too strong for George Cross' attack, but Frankston's forwards will also get strong opposition from John Webb and Norm Mallard.

Our tip: FRANKSTON.

YUGAL — MARRICKVILLE
2:1 (1:1)

Marrickville's striker netted in the 6th minute by patting the ball to unmarked Dudley Gaud.

Yugal's striker netted in the 11th minute by close range and Yugal looked set to be beaten again.

But those first six minutes were the only time during the match that Yugal allowed their opponents to create an opening. For the rest of the game the problem that was facing the blues was of their own making.

To create a chance was easy, but to score is another game altogether.

After 25 minutes, Mihajlovic started a move, then Bill Radovic, Karanfilovski and Rodas touched before the ball reached Mihajlovic again only seven metres away from the line. The Yugal striker made no mistake with his right foot drive and the scores were level.

Then Karanfilovski scored after some good work by Piper. Mihajlovic had a couple of opportunities towards the end, but again it looked like the Yugal forward had left his shooting boots at home.

Yugal: A. Mandrile, N. Nil, M. Piper, M. Novakovic, S. Radovic, B. Stamenovic, B. Karanfilovski, G. Naranjito, T. Mihajlovic, B. Travani, P. Rodas (S. Tanekovic).

MARRICKVILLE: P. Looney, R. Page, A. Lee, T. Jordan, B. Windshuttle, R. Steele, F. Apostolis, P. Thompson, D. Gaud, P. Walsh, G. Clark.

OLYMPIC — KURINGAI
2:1

An impressive and skilful display by Olympic earned them a deserved 2-1 win over dispirited Kuringai.

Watch the guide of Frank Malone in midfield, Kuringai were never in the game, and they should think themselves lucky to have escaped with a narrow loss.

Time and again Zeros, Belafas, Necerites and Kothales broke through Kuringai's defence but their shooting was off target.

For the winners, Necerites and Zeros scored, while El Zein (o.g.) scored for Kuringai.

OLYMPIC: Ali El Zein, S. Kable, Shadriff, J. Karasypis, Lambert, P. Balas, M. Negaric, (Angiolopoulos 61), J. Zeros, P. Brown, P. Kothalis, T. Thompson (Xipolitis 7).

KURINGAI: A. Gles, Noble, Bainbridge, M. West (Bridal 6), Smith, Wharton, S. Lyle, Martin, S. Robertson, S. Allison, P. Gulters.

DETAILS

Last weekend's games and final standings:

GROUP "A": Croatia — Melita 0:1, Granville — Reusby 3:0.

WOLFAP

MILITA 3 0 0 4 0 5

CROATIA 2 0 1 10 20

GRANVILLE 1 0 2 4 10

REUSBY 0 0 3 0 10

GROUP "B"

MORARO 2 0 1 8 3 8

MANLY 1 1 1 5 6 27

APIA 1 1 1 4 3 26

TONGAREVA 3 2 1 5 10 18

GROUP "C": Olympic — Kuringai 2:1, Arncliffe — Auburn 1:1.

ARNCLIFFE 2 1 0 4 2 41

OLYMPIC 2 1 0 3 3 35

AUBURN 2 1 1 3 4 25

KURINGAI 0 0 3 2 5 2

GROUP "D": Aris — Sutherland 2:2, Yugal — Marrickville 2:1.

WOLFAP

SUTHERLAND 2 1 0 7 2 44

ARIS 2 1 0 4 2 41

YUGAL 1 0 2 3 17

MARRICKVILLE 0 0 3 1 5 1

On Sunday, March 5, the semi-finals will be decided at the Sports Ground.

ARNCLIFFE SCOTT — MILITA, MONARO v. SUTHERLAND.

Adams appeal

Preston Makedonia has started an appeal for forward Lou Adams who broke a leg in his first full match two weeks ago.

The club has set up a special committee to collect funds, and already has \$500.

Any contributions should be sent to P.O. Box 171, Preston, 3072.

Webster spares

Frankston City 6 (Eadie 32nd, G. Bannan 41st, Tulloch 44th, Rainey own goal 50th, McGregor 66th, Fakes 67th). HAKOAH 0.

Frankston: Petersen 6, Bannan 8, Irvine 6, Gillespie 6, Williamson 6, Campbell 5 (Taylor 45th), G. Bannan 7, Webster 8, Tulloch 7, McGregor 6, Eadie 5 (Fakes 59th).

HAKOAH: Harburn 4 (Amaci 44th); Rainey 5, Gadsby 6, Edmondson 6, Nagy 5, McNeil 5, Jordan 4, Adamakis 4, Blair 5, Mandalis 4, Bodzinski 4.

Steve Adamakis should have picked a different week to make his debut for Hakoah.

The former J.U.S.T. player will want to forget this one in a hurry! Adamakis switched to Hakoah in part-exchange for Mike O'Hara (see page one).

Centre backs Steve Gadsby and Gary Edmondson tried hard to stem the tide, but they had to crack eventually due to the lack of mid-field support.

Keth Webster and Alex Tulloch were the key men in Frankston's team, playing with imagination and creativity. Hakoah had no-one to match them.

Neither was Hakoah able to make an impression on the Frankston defence. Vince Bannan, Steve Irvine and Eric Gillespie won't have an easier afternoon this year.

Hakoah guarded its respectability until about half way through the first half, yet even then it was lucky not to concede at least one goal.

With Webster doing as he liked in midfield, Frankston had chances galore. Norrie Campbell missed with a close-range header, and Jed Bannan shot over the bar with the aid of a deflection, a shot by Webster was stopped by Campbell who got in the way, and Gus Eadie missed from just 15 metres.

The only time Hakoah posed a threat to Frankston goalkeeper Frank Peterson was when someone pushed a long through ball into a shot — into the penalty area. Petersen had to come to the edge of the area to pounce on it. Edmondson, who had just been shown the yellow card, came forward in a Hakoah attack and slammed a fantastic shot through the middle. It may have scored, had Sandy Irvine's back not been in the way.

The first goal came in the 32nd minute. Goalkeeper Steve Harburn spilled a shot by Tulloch and Eadie put the ball into the empty net.

Just after half time, Tulloch beat Harburn with a 25-metre shot, and coach Mandalis immediately replaced Harburn with Amici.

Slavia has imported four new players from the U.K. They are: Jim Paton, a midfielder from Queen's Park, Scotland; Barry Bolton, a midfielder who had three years with Chelsea; Martin Turner, a winger from Sheffield United; Steve Aldrich, a striker from

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With Webster doing as he liked in midfield, Frankston had chances galore. Norrie Campbell missed with a close-range header, and Jed Bannan shot over the bar with the aid of a deflection, a shot by Webster was stopped by Campbell who got in the way, and Gus Eadie missed from just 15 metres.

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Adams appeal

Preston Makedonia has started an appeal for forward Lou Adams who broke a leg in his first full match two weeks ago.

The club has set up a special committee to collect funds, and already has \$500.

Any contributions should be sent to P.O. Box 171, Preston, 3072.

Webster spares

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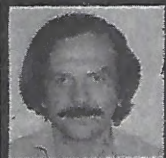
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PETER GEORGIU

of the
'Hellenic
Herald'

ΑΡΧΙΖΕΙ ΤΟ 2ο ΠΡΩΤΑΘΛΗΜΑ

Και με ένα εντυπωσιακό φινάλε των πολυθρονησμένων άσων προετοιμασίας των ομάδων, τις έθνικές κατηγορίες οι μέρες που μας χωρίζουν από την έναρξη έναρξη του πρωταθλήματος έγιναν λιγότεροι και για την ακρίβεια τέσσερις.

Από αυτό το Σάββατο 14 ομάδες βρίσκονται στην άγωνα της κατάκτησης του τίτλου του δεύτερου έθνικού πρωταθλήματος. Η κάθε μία ανάλογα προετοιμαμένη ή άπροετοιμαστή.

Η μεγαλύτερη αντίδοσή για μερικές ομάδες της έθνικής κατηγορίας είναι το πρωτάθλημα. Η χειρότερη, είναι η τελευταία θέση στην βαθμολογία ή ακόμα και... τίποτα άλλο. Όπως έχετε υποθέσει, δεν υπάρχει για την ώρα και η τελευταία στην βαθμολογία ομάδα δεν έχει να χάσει και πολλά πράγματα.

Μια μόνο αλλαγή έγινε στην σύνθεση των ομάδων. Την θέση του Μουρούλια που το οποίο αποχώρησε λόγω χρεωκοπίας πήρε το Νικόλαος το οποίο ανέλαβε ο έφηβο Ζωζουάκης Στέφανος, της Βορείου ΝΝΟ.

Για το Νικόλαος, στην Εθνική του Λατίνου, δεν έλειψε και πολλά πράγματα. Στην πραγματικότητα δεν έλειψε τίποτα κι αυτό διότι οι διοργανωτές του ομογενειακού πρωταθλήματος κρατούν, όπως φαίνεται, τις πληροφορίες για να μας κάνουν ένοχους. Θα δοθεί όμως την ομάδα σε λίγο και θα θάλαμε μόνοι μας συμπεράσματα και ίσως αυτό να είναι το καλύτερο.

Από τους άγωνα προετοιμασίας των ομάδων δεν πήραμε και τίποτα το ουσιαστικό από την άποψη των προετοιμασιών. Οι ομάδες και ιδιαίτερα ο Μένος, έδειξαν παραπάνω φιλικό από ότι έπρεπε. Επίσης οι λεγόμενοι φιλικό άγωνα δεν είχαν και το φιλικό χαρακτήρα. Κάποιες φορές, πραγματικά και φανατισμός στην κερκίδα έδωσαν την εντύπωση ότι το πρωτάθλημα άρχισε πριν δύο μήνες. Άκόμη και οι διαπτώσεις το πήραν στο σοβαρό και η αδιαφορία τους σε όριμένους άγωνα ήταν ανάλογη με την φανατισμό που επικρατούσε.

Είναι λοιπόν οι ομάδες έτοιμες για το πρωτάθλημα; Όσοι από όλη την προετοιμασία που έχουν κάνει: Καί θα πάλι συναντάμε δυσκολία στο να βρούμε την απάντηση όταν στους φιλικούς οι ομάδες δεν παρουσιάζουν τίποτα το ιδιαίτερο. Λίγοι —μερυστοι— στα δάκτυλα του ενός χεριού— είναι οι νέοι παίκτες που έχουν ενισχύσει τις ομάδες και μόνον ένα νέο όνομα είχαμε στην λίστα των προσηγοριών, του γνωστού δημοσιογράφου Τόμ Άντερσον, ο οποίος ανέλαβε την 'Ελληνική' ομάδα του Σούντβ 'Ολύμπικ'.

Σε γενικές γραμμές με μπορούμε να περιμένουμε τίποτα άλλο παρά ένα ποδόσφαιρο στην ίδια στάθμη του πρώτου έθνικού.

Στους φιλικούς άγωνα οι ομάδες δεν έδειξαν ότι ανέβηκαν περισσότερο ποιοτικά απ' ότι πέσαν. Όρισμένες μάλιστα έδειξαν ότι βρίσκονται στο ίδιο και άλλες οι κομψότεροι, έπαιζαν.

Για την πρώτη ομάδα που θα λέγαμε ότι θα μπορούσε έστω να πρωταγωνιστήσει, ακόμη δε και να κερτίσει τίτλο, είναι η ομάδα της 'Ελλάς' 'Αδελφίδας' η οποία παρουσιάζει με ένα νησί και στα παλαιότερα στοιχεία της.

Από τις υπόλοιπες 'Ελληνικές' ομάδες μέχρι στιγμής δεν έχουμε δεί τίποτα το καινούριο. Θα λέγαμε όμως ότι η 'Ελλάς' είναι κάπως καλύτερη έτος από ότι ήταν πέρυσι και με τις κατάλληλες προσθήκες στην ενδεκάδα της και με σωστό τρόπο παίρνει όλα τα μέσα ακόμα και στην 'Ελλάς'.

Ο Μέγας πορταβέρ ο ίδιος. Οι παίκτες του έχουν παίξει μαζί σε όλα τα πενήντα πρωτάθλημα και αυτό είναι πλεονεκτήματα για μερικές ομάδες που συναντούν τις... θα είναι και πάλι μια από τις πιο δυναμικές ομάδες της έθνικής κατηγορίας. Το Σούντβ 'Ολύμπικ' έδειξε ότι είναι ακόμη πολύ δουλειά και ώριμες άγες να είναι.

Είναι φυσικά χωρίς ακόμα για προβλέψεις, αν και στους φιλικούς άγωνα οι 'Ελληνικές' ομάδες έδειξαν τις δυνατότητές τους.

Από τις υπόλοιπες ομάδες που είχαμε οι περυσινές δύο πρώτες, Χάκκα και Μαρκόνι δείχνουν ότι πάλι έτος θα είναι οι πρωταγωνιστές, ενώ η Σάλτ Τζόρτζ παρουσιάζει βελτιωμένη. Δεν έχουμε δεί ακόμη τις υπόλοιπες ομάδες και η αυτές θα θάλαμε συμπεράσματα στο πρωτάθλημα.

Το Σάββατο λοιπόν 14 ομάδες θα αρχίσουν την άγωνα για την κατάκτηση του πρωταθλήματος χωρίς ιδιαίτερη άγωνα. Και τ'όλο αυτό δεν είναι άγωνα προσηγοριών, δεν υπάρχει πάνω από τα κεφάλια των συλλόγων ή τ'όσοι το υποθέτουμε.

Και αν θέλαμε μια πρόχειρη πρόβλεψη για τους πρωταγωνιστές του φετινού ομογενειακού πρωταθλήματος κατά την γνώμη μου αυτό θα είναι οι Μαρκόνι, 'Ελλάς' 'Αδελφίδας', 'Αλέξανδρος', Χάκκα και Σάλτ Τζόρτζ.

Π. ΓΕΩΡΓΙΟΥ

How they reached the finals

Mexico's qualifying matches:

CONCACAF extra preliminary matches: v USA

0-0, 3-0, v Canada 0-1, 0-0.

(Canada v USA: 1-1, 0-2).

Standings:

Mexico..... W 2 D 1 L 1 P 14

Canada..... 1 2 1 3 4

USA..... 1 2 1 3 4

CONCACAF Finals played in Mexico:

October 9 in Mexico City:

MEXICO 4 (Rangel 3, Sanchez) HAITI 1 (Auguste).

Mexico: Castrejon, Najera, Ramos, Gomez, Ayala, Cuellar, De la Torre, Chavez (Cardenas), Ortega, Jimenez (Rangel), Sanchez.

Haiti: Francillon, Jean Joseph, Mathieu, Auguste, Nazaire (Romulus), Antoine (Labislere), Dorsalville, Desir, Bayone, Sanon, Domingue.

Crowd: 108,000.

October 12 in Mexico City:

MEXICO 3 (Rangel 2, Cardenas) EL SALVADOR 1 (own goal).

Mexico: Pilar Reyes, Najera, Ramos, Gomez, Ayala, Cuellar, De la Torre, Cardenas (Real), Ortega (Isordia), Rangel, Sanchez.

El Salvador: Dessent, Jovel, Rocio, Fagoaga, Pena, Huezo, Rivera, Quintero, R. Zapata, Rosas (Valdes), Gonzalez (Mejia).

Crowd: 108,000.

October 15 in Monterrey:

MEXICO 8 (Rangel, Isordia 2, Sanchez 2, Jimenez 2, Chavez) SURINAM 1 (Olimberg penalty).

Mexico: Pilar Reyes, Trujillo, Ramos, Gomez, Ayala, Real, Guillen, Solis (Chavez), Isordia, Rangel (Jimenez), Sanchez.

Surinam: Lellis, Siedfried, Garden, Leeland, Broeders, Olmberg, Zebeda (Castillon), Puerphart, Entingh (Rigter), Emanuelson, Schal.

October 19 in Mexico City:

MEXICO 2 (Ayala penalty, Rangel) GUATEMALA 1 (Mitrovich).

Mexico: Castrejon, Najera, Ramos, Gomez, Ayala, Cuellar, Ortega, Rangel (Acceves), Sanchez.

Guatemala: Garcia, Carlos Perez (Rosotto), Montero, Bolanos, Hese Perez, Gomez, Alfaro, Anderson, Salguero, Mitrovich, Riveru.

Crowd: 80,000.

October 22 in Monterrey:

MEXICO 3 (Gonzalez 2, Sanchez) CANADA 1 (Parsons).

Mexico: Castrejon, Najera, Tena, Guzman, Ayala, Cuellar, De la Torre, Solis (Acceves), Jimenez, Isordia, Sanchez (Ortega).

Canada: Chursky, Iarusti, S. Lenarduzzi, Ayre, Twamley (McGrane), Bolitho, Bakic, Gant (Stranier), Roe, Parsons, Thompson.

Crowd: 55,000.

Final standings:

Mexico..... W 5 D 0 L 0 F 10 P 10

Haiti..... 2 3 1 1 7 7

Canada..... 2 1 2 7 8 5

El Salvador..... 2 1 2 8 9 3

Guatemala..... 1 1 3 8 10 3

Surinam..... 0 0 5 6 17 0

Four of Mexico's stars, from left: Cuellar, Ortega, Rangel and Sanchez. Rangel scored six goals in the final CONCACAF qualifying tournament.

Groupings for the 1978 World Cup finals in Argentina this year:			
GROUP ONE	GROUP TWO	GROUP THREE	GROUP FOUR
Argentina	West Germany	Brazil	Holland
Italy	Poland	Sweden	Scotland
Hungary	Mexico	Austria	Iran
France	Tunisia	Spain	Peru

Yugoslavs and Germans felt the Mexicans' bite

Anyone who doubts the ability of Mexico had better think again.

Last June, the Mexicans had a sensational 2-2 draw with West Germany at home, after leading 2-0.

De la Torre scored the goals before two by Klaus Fischer saved face for the German team which featured all the big stars — Maier, Vogts, Bonhof, Folke, Abramczak and the others.

Earlier in the year, Mexico had stunned the world by beating Yugoslavia 5-1!

The Yugoslav team, although only an experimental second-string combination, was still a strong one, comprising stars like Bajevic, Hadzibabic, Katalinic and Rajkovic.

Mexico's goals in that game were scored by Chavez, Isordia, Jimenez, and Vasquez, the other being an own goal by Jenlevic.

Another major success was Mexico's 1-1 draw with Hungary. It also drew 1-1 with South American Cup winner Atletico Mineiro of Brazil.

Mexico may have cut it fine in winning its preliminary qualifying group against Canada and the USA only on goal average, but in the final qualifying series, held in Mexico, the home team won all five games for a goal average of 20.5.

Opponents in the final series were Haiti, which played in the World Cup in West Germany, Canada, El Salvador, Guatemala and Surinam.

Some of Mexico's best achievements in past World Cup finals have been: beating Czechoslovakia in Chile in 1962, and beating Belgium 1-0 to reach the quarter-finals of the 1970 tournament which was, of course, held in Mexico.

Eleven Australians will tell you exactly how skillful and how fast the Mexicans are.

Those 11, playing in the green and gold of Australia, lost 0-3 to Mexico at the Aztec Stadium, in the last



game of Australia's 1970 world tour.

Our team that day was: Jack Reilly, John Roche, Peter Wilson, Sandy Irvine, Col Curran (Dennis Yeager), Ray Richards, Johnny Warren, Jimmy Mackay, George Blues, Adrian Alston (John Doyle), Mike Denton.

Mexico's most recent successes have come with the appointment of a new manager, Jose Antonio Roca, the former international who played in the 1950 World Cup in Brazil.

Roca, who has coached FC America and his present club Atletico Espanol, replaced Mexico's former manager Ignacio Trellez who was in charge during the preliminary tournament during which it drew 0-0 with USA in Los Angeles and 0-0 with Canada in Toluca.

Those results were clearly not good enough.

After having appeared in every World Cup final tournament since 1950, the Mexicans suffered a humiliating set-back in the 1973 qualifying rounds, during which they lost 0-4 to Trinidad, thus giving rival Haiti a berth in the finals.

But the Mexican Football Federation was determined to get its team back among the elite, so it advanced about \$170,000 to prepare its team and to stage the final CONCACAF play-offs.

This determination has paid off, if we are to believe the words of former German

forwards, and there's always the chance that Pedro Damian will come back. This brilliant striker played against the USA and Canada, but not in the final series.

Mexico's greatest ever international was goalkeeper Antonio Carbajal who has played in more World Cups than anyone else — 1950 in Brazil, 1954 in Switzerland, 1958 in Sweden, 1962 in Chile and 1966 in England.

Anyone who now plays for Mexico is inevitably compared with the great Carbajal, and that doesn't make the job any easier.

Francisco Castrejon is the current No. 1, with Pilar Reyes his deputy and Camacho No. 3 choice.

The defence is marshalled by Javier Guzman, 32, a veteran of the 1970 finals. He has fine positioning and perfect understanding with the other defenders. What's more, Guzman scored two of the goals in Mexico's 3-1 victory over Canada in the final qualifying series.

Group backs Najera and Vasquez Ayala are fast, tough and valuable when coming forward and in midfield Mexico has a tireless worker in Antonio de la Torre and a defensive type in Jose Luis Real.

However, there is no dominating midfielder with the personality to grab hold of a game and control it. Mexico's international record for 1977 reads: 9 wins, 3 draws, 1 loss; 36:12 goals, 80.7% success rate.

The success rate is fifth in the world, behind Holland, Portugal, Iran, and Austria.

As for their chance in the 1978 World Cup, the Mexicans will clearly be struggling, for their opponents in Group Two include world champion West Germany and Poland.

Certainly Mexico will beat Tunisia, but so will the other two.

Continued from Page 14

me out. He never once said anything about the money the club owed him."

Fairbrother is concerned that other players may end up in a similar situation.

"Australia needs a players' association," he said, "that can help and protect players."

Fairbrother said he would not play for any other club apart from Lions, which squashes rumours that Adelaide Juventus had paid Mooroolbark the \$10,000 and was preparing to sign the former Orient and Millwall striker.

Hopefully the problem can be resolved quickly, as Lions have a potential championship-winning team, boasting Scottish international Jim Hermiston and the talented Paul Ontong as well as Fairbrother.

— KYLE PATTERSON

Reached quarter-finals in 1970

Mexico's previous appearances in the World Cup:

1930 (in Uruguay): Group One of finals: v France 1-4, v Chile 0-0, Argentina 3-0.

Mexico used: Bonifacio, Gutierrez, M. Rosas, F. Rosas, Sanchez, Amezcua, Perez, Carrero, Mejia, Ruiz, Lopez, Sota, Gayon, F. Gutierrez, Rodriguez, Olivares.

1934 (in Italy): qualifying games: v Cuba 3-2, 5-0, 4-1, v USA 2-5.

1938 (in France): did not compete.

1950 (in Brazil): qualifying games: v USA 6-0, 6-2; v Cuba 2-0, 3-0; Group One of finals: v Brazil 0-4, v Yugoslavia 1-4, v Sweden 1-2.

Mexico used: Carbajal, Zetter, Montemajr, Ruiz, Ochola, Roca, Septien, Ortiz, Cesarin, Perez, Velasquez, Gutierrez, Gomez, Flores, Naranjo, Guevara, Borbolla.

1954 (in Switzerland): qualifying games: v Haiti 8-0, 4-0; v USA 4-0, 3-1; Group One of finals: v Brazil 0-5, v France

2-3.

Mexico used: Carbajal, Lopez, Gomez, Cardenas, Romo, Avalos, Torres, Naranjo, Lamadrid, Balcazar, Arrellano, Mota, Martinez.

1958 (in Sweden): qualifying games: v USA 6-0, 7-2; v Canada 3-0, 2-0; v Costa Rica 2-0, 1-1; Group Three of finals: v Sweden 0-3, v Wales 1-1, v Hungary 0-4.

Mexico used: Carbajal, Del Muro, Romo, Villegas, Portugal, Flores, Hernandez, Reyes, Calderon, Gutierrez, Sesma, Cardenas, Belmonte, Blanco, Gonzales, Sepulveda.

1962 (in Chile): qualifying games: v USA 3-3, 3-0; v Costa Rica 0-1, 4-1; v England 0-2, v Uruguay 0-0.

Mexico used: Calderon, Chaires, Pena, Nunez, Hernandez, Diaz, Mercado, Reyes, Frago, Padilla, Borja, Del Muro, Jauregui, Carbajal, Cisneros.

1970 (in Mexico): Group One of finals: v USSR 0-0, v El Salvador 4-0, v Belgium 1-0; quarter-finals: v Italy 1-4.

Mexico used: Calderon, Pena, Perez, Hernandez, Lopez, Vantolra, Guzman, Pulido, Velarde, Mangula, Valdivia, Frago, Gonzalez, Borja, Basaguren, Padilla, Diaz.

1974 (in West Germany): qualifying games: v Canada 1-0, 2-1; v USA 3-1, 2-1; v Guatemala 0-0; v Honduras 1-1; v Dutch Antilles 8-0; v Trinidad 0-4; v Haiti 1-0. FAILED TO QUALIFY.

1986 (in England), qualifying games: v Honduras 1-0, 3-0; v USA 2-2, 2-0; v Costa Rica 0-0, 1-0; v Jamaica 3-2, 8-0; Group One of finals: v France 1-1, v England 0-2, v Uruguay 0-0.

Mexico used: Calderon, Chaires, Pena, Nunez, Hernandez, Diaz, Mercado, Reyes, Frago, Padilla, Borja, Del Muro, Jauregui, Carbajal, Cisneros.

1970 (in Mexico): Group One of finals: v USSR 0-0, v El Salvador 4-0, v Belgium 1-0; quarter-finals: v Italy 1-4.

Mexico used: Calderon, Pena, Perez, Hernandez, Lopez, Vantolra, Guzman, Pulido, Velarde, Mangula, Valdivia, Frago, Gonzalez, Borja, Basaguren, Padilla, Diaz.

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International scoreboard

WEST GERMANY									
Ferham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Herford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Worms	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Worms	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Worms	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HOLLAND									
FC Den Haag	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FC Den Haag	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FC Den Haag	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FC Den Haag	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FC Den Haag	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ITALY									
Flaminio	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Flaminio	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Flaminio	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Flaminio	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Flaminio	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PORTUGAL									
Boavista	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Boavista	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Boavista	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Boavista	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Boavista	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GREECE									
Epion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Epion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Epion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Epion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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TURKEY									
Antalyaspor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Antalyaspor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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Antalyaspor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CZECHOSLOVAKIA									
Slavia Praha	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Slavia Praha	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Slavia Praha	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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Slavia Praha	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BRAZIL									
Flamengo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Flamengo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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Flamengo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Flamengo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FRANCE									
Stade de France	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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Stade de France	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ROMANIA									
Steaua Bucuresti	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Steaua Bucuresti	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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Steaua Bucuresti	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
POLAND									
Legia Warszawa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Legia Warszawa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Legia Warszawa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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Legia Warszawa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HUNGARY									
Telekom Budapest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Telekom Budapest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Telekom Budapest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Telekom Budapest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Telekom Budapest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ENGLISH DIVISION ONE									
Manchester United	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Manchester United	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Manchester United	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Manchester United	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Manchester United	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ENGLISH DIVISION TWO									
Sheff Wed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sheff Wed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sheff Wed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sheff Wed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sheff Wed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ENGLISH DIVISION THREE									
Sheff Wed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sheff Wed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sheff Wed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sheff Wed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sheff Wed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ENGLISH DIVISION FOUR									
Sheff Wed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sheff Wed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sheff Wed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sheff Wed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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Another recruit from Sweden!

By LAWRIE SCHWAB

SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS 3 (Ollerton 4th & 79th, Pye 70th) FITZROY ALEXANDER 0.

HELLAS: Hansen 7; Pye 7, Kalafatis 6, Vaughan 6, Hagegeanu 6, Christopoulos 7, (Kakandis 83rd), Wright 7, Luffon 7, Cummings 7, Ollerton 7, Kent 7.
ALEXANDER: Blasby 5, McMillan 5, Provan 5, O'Reilly 5, Tansey 5, Bozilas 7, Taylor 5, Rakovalski 6, Campbell 5, Buljevic 5, Cole 5.

Stuart Baxter, a centre back, arrives this week from Sweden to join South Melbourne Hellas.

Baxter, 24, has been playing for Swedish club Helsingborg for the past two seasons.

Before that he had about 100 games for Preston North End in England.

Hellas manager Dave MacLaren tried to bring Baxter to Australia while he was boss of Hakoah-Easts in Sydney.

It was Baxter who recommended goalkeeper John Hansen to MacLaren. Hansen also played for Helsingborg.

With the arrival of Baxter and the emergence of 16-year-old George Christopoulos as a star of the future, Hellas is set for a successful season.

"It was stupid to write us off after the first couple of practice games," MacLaren said after Hellas' 3-0 victory over Alexander last Sunday.

"We have made tremendous advances in the past six weeks and the players are just getting used to a new system and new tactics."

"We will improve a further 100 per cent on the form we showed against Alexander, and we'll definitely be a contender for the championship."

However, although Hellas played well on Sunday, it would be a mistake to get carried away with the result, as Alexander cannot play as badly again.

Most of them looked like they'd been to a booze-up the previous night!

The defenders fumbled and lost the ball, the midfielders failed to pick up their opponents and the forwards rarely got a touch.

Hellas, on the other hand, had winners all over the ground. Chris Kalafatis, perhaps spurred on by the news that a new centre back is on the way, put on one of his most determined displays to smash the Alexander forward line.

Left back Margaritis Hagegeanu did fearless running on the flank, Sammy Wright was cool and creative in midfield, Chris Kent worked hard on the wing, Peter Ollerton scored two goals and Duncan Cummings started playing himself back into his best form.

Young Christopoulos was a revelation. Signed from Coburg, he is tremendously confident and strong for his age. He has all the necessary skills and he's a thinker.

Alexander played without Mike Micevski and Pat Bannon who were both out injured.

The Scottish midfielder and goalkeeper who had expected to arrive last week, are now due this week.

Hagegeanu started the move that led to Hellas' first goal in the fourth minute. He went down the line and crossed to Ollerton, who had to dive low to head the ball into the net.

Then Ollerton set up Cummings to hit the post.

From a cross by Kent, Cummings got a good opportunity but he mis-kicked, sending the ball unintentionally to Christopoulos whose shot was saved by Peter Blasby at point-blank range.

Cummings was in action again a few minutes later when he beat Tansey easily on his way into the penalty area, but Blasby slid at Cummings' feet to clear the ball.

It was bad luck for Hellas when the referee didn't apply the advantage rule when Cummings put the ball into the net after the foul, but the referee awarded the free kick.

Jim O'Reilly was responsible for one of Alexander's most embarrassing mistakes, losing control of the ball and allowing Bertie Lutton to dash past with only the goalkeeper to beat.

However, instead of going right into the penalty area, Lutton shot too early and too wide.

Cummings also robbed a defender in another Hellas attack, but he too missed with his shot.

The second half started in exactly the same way as the first — with Hagegeanu pushing a square ball into the middle. Lutton was there, but he missed the ball while sliding at it.

Ken Taylor had two typical long-range attempts for Alexander, but Hellas goalkeeper John Hansen saved them brilliantly. Bozilas got away again, speeding past Mike Pye and also beating Peter Vaughan before lobbing a fine shot only centimetres too high.

O'Reilly and Tansey had changed places now in Alexander's defence, but it made little difference. Tansey had been beaten too often at left back, partly because he kept bringing himself out going up and down the line. You don't do that in ridiculous heat.

Alexander was lucky not to concede a penalty when Arthur McMillan backed into Lutton as he high crossed game floating over.

But more goals were inevitable.

In the 70th minute a good header by Ollerton was pushed out by Blasby, but the ball went to Pye who rammed it into the net.

The third goal came in the 79th minute.

Cummings beat Bob Provan on the left wing and pushed the ball square to Ollerton coming through the middle. All Ollerton had to do was side-foot it into the net.

Helping Hakoah

By STEPHEN KALUS

Who said that friendship and fraternity are strange to Victorian soccer officials?

Hakoah-St. Kilda which is celebrating its 50th anniversary, launched an appeal recently to assist the club financially.

St. Kilda who came forward first — The Marmara, MBE — the long-serving president of the Victorian Soccer Federation and a highly respected man in the round ball game.

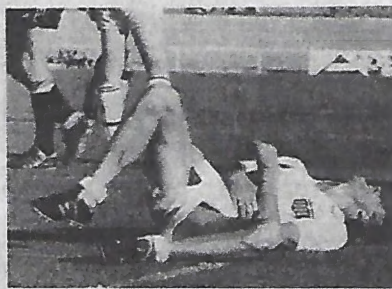
Mr. Marmara offered Hakoah help and assistance himself and also on behalf of the VSF and the Greek community in Melbourne.

The next soccer official who answered Hakoah's call was the president of Footscray — JUST, Tony Kew. And the well-known soccer writer and former secretary of Polonia-Marlborough Ted Lezon.

Several of Hakoah's first team players of the twenties together with former and present officials met recently at the City "Y" Club to discuss plans for the golden jubilee celebrations.

Kalman Rogers, George Winnikoff and Nat Spoler represented the old timers. Also, former presidents of the club George Weinberg and Henry Greenfield attended the meeting.

The following patrons will be invited to join the golden jubilee committee: Michael Weinstein BEM (Chairman VSF), George Weinberg, Kalman Rogers, Martin Lane, Mike Duda, Walter Polak, Michael Silberg, Les Braun, Peter Pyrie, Rony Rubinstein, George Winnikoff, Nat Spoler, Ron Rogers, Sam Kilger and I. Spigel.



Bertie Lutton writhes in pain after being hit on the arm which was still banded for a previous injury.



Excited children congratulate Peter Ollerton after he had scored Hellas' first goal. Pictures by SAM BELFONTE.

Campbell sinks West Adelaide

By MENO TOUTSIDIS

WEST ADELAIDE HELLAS 0 HAKOAH-EASTS 4.

(Campbell 2, Barnes, Stevenson) in Adelaide.

HELLAS: Service 5, Crook, Bozanic 5, (Tymczyszyn), Reynolds 5, (Koulanos), McAushey 6, Jones 6, McCulloch 6, Honeymay 7, Boyle 5, (Zivkovic), Stokkens 8, (Vaglanos), Norris 6, McGee.

HAKOAH: Clarke 7, Mullen 7, Townsend 7, O'Connor 7, Mowbray 7, Stevenson 8, Smith 7, Watson 7, Barnes 7, Campbell 8, Silva 8.

Hakoah-Easts crushed West Adelaide Hellas 4-0 and left the SA club's supporters uncertain of how the club will fare this season.

After a series of impressive trial performances, Hellas was in appalling touch and looked like a ship without a rudder in the first half when it conceded all the goals.

The team improved after half time when coach John Margaritis made four changes but it was still well below its best.

Meanwhile Hakoah was in brilliant form, apart from the first 10 minutes when Hellas was on top, and coach Gerry Chaldi must be pleased after a series of poor results in trial games.

Ernie Campbell grabbed two goals and showed he will be more than a handful for defences this season while John Stevenson had a great game in midfield.

Campbell opened the scoring in the 10th minute when he pounced on a rebound and hit a ground shot past keeper Sam Service.

Ten minutes later Campbell got his second with a piledriver from 15 metres.

Hellas' only excuse was the 34 deg. temperatures which tested the stamina of both sides.

Hellas plays Canberra City at the weekend and will need to improve drastically if it is to open the season with a win.

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I know this is the year of Preston Makedonia. To players & everyone associating with the club

GOOD LUCK FOR 1978